

**State of Wisconsin
Higher Educational Aids Board**

**Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2006**

Board Members Present: Mary Jo Green, Debra McKinney, Kevin Ingram, Thomas Shields, Elizabeth Tucker, Dr. Verna Fowler, Milton McPike, Ann Greenheck, Vickie Young via phone.

HEAB Staff Present: Connie Hutchison, Sherrie Nelson, Mary Lou Kuzdas, Cassie Weisensel.

Others Present: Paul Nelson, WAICU; Lynn Paulson, UW System Administration; Kevin Welch, UW System Administration; Margaret Zitzer, Marquette University; Mary Czech-Mrochinski, Marquette University; Tom Heffron, WTCS; Rolf Wegenke, WAICU; Angela Russel, Office of the Governor; Morna Foy, WTCS.

Chair Mary Jo Green called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Tom Shields, seconded by Milton McPike to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2006 Board Meeting.

ELECTION OF 2006-2007 BOARD OFFICERS:

Elections were held for the three Board officer positions, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Mary Jo Green opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Ann Greenheck nominated Mary Jo Green for the position of Chair, seconded by Liz Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

Debbie McKinney nominated Ann Nevaizer for the position for Vice-Chair, seconded by Kevin Ingram. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Shields nominated Debbie McKinney for the position of Secretary, seconded by Liz Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

SETTING OF MEETING DATES FOR 2006-2007:

The dates that were chosen are as follows: October 13, 2006; March 2, 2007; April 20, 2007; and August 10, 2007.

UPDATE ON THE WISCONSIN COVENANT:

Angela Russel from the Governor's Office gave an update on the Wisconsin Covenant. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed on September 6th, 2006 by the Governor's Office, UW, WTCS, WAICU, and the Department of Public Instruction. The Board asked Angela Russel to submit a request to the Governor that the Tribal Colleges also be included in the MOU.

BOARD REPORT #07-04 2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES: VETERANS' TUITION REMISSION

The WTCS Board and UW System Board of Regents believe that HEAB is the most appropriate entity to administer a reimbursement program for these tuition remissions. Central administration of these funds would provide a single point of contact for information about the program, facilitate data collection and monitoring of program and costs, facilitate periodic program evaluation, and clearly restrict the use of funds to remission reimbursement. HEAB has experience administering a similar type of reimbursement program with the Academic Excellence Scholarship.

Moved by Ann Greenheck, seconded by Milton McPike, that HEAB request sum sufficient funding and the necessary resources to administer a reimbursement program for the UW System and the WTCS for the veteran's tuition remissions as required by the 2006 Wisconsin GI Bill.

The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORT #07-05 2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES: TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

The following two issues were up for discussion/action regarding WTCS. To address the immediate need for additional student financial aid resources, the WTCS Board respectfully asked that the HEAB 2007-09 budget requests include the two following topics.

1. Minimum increases of \$1,353,700 in FY 2007-08 and \$1,463,400 in FY 2008-09, or annual increases of 8.1%, for the WTCS WHEG. This request is based on the most recent (FY 2006-07) percentage increase in WTCS postsecondary/vocational education tuition.

Moved by Ann Greenheck, seconded by Kevin Ingram, that in the 2007-09 biennial budget, HEAB request additional funding for WTCS WHEG equal to annual increase of 8.1% based on most recent percentage increases in WTCS postsecondary/vocational education tuition.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. An annual increase of 14.5% for the Minority Undergraduate Retention grant, based on expected minority student enrollment growth. Based on the most recent distribution of these grant funds between WTCS and private college and university students, this request would provide an additional \$54,850 in FY 2007-08 and \$62,800 in FY 2008-09 for WTCS students.

Moved by Kevin Ingram, seconded by Milton McPike, that in the 2007-09 biennial budget, HEAB requests an additional \$54,850 in FY 2007-08 and \$62,800 in FY 2008-09 for the Minority Undergraduate Retention Grant for WTCS students.

The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORT #07-06 2007-09 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

The following two issues were up for discussion/action regarding the UW System:

1. The creation of a Hold Harmless Tuition Grant program to cover tuition and fees not covered by other grant aid in order to increase the probability that financially needy current, and prospective, students will attend and graduate from a UW institution; and that HEAB administer a Hold Harmless Tuition Grant program, and include funding for the program and its administrative costs in HEAB's budget in order to keep college affordable for all financially need students.

Moved by Tom Shields, seconded by Ann Greenheck, that HEAB request the creation of a Hold Harmless Tuition Grant program administered by HEAB and include the other three sectors (Technical Colleges, Independent Colleges and Tribal Colleges) in this program.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. The UW system requests the appropriation for the UW-WHEG program be modified to increase the UW-WHEG grant for each recipient by an amount equal to the amount that tuition increases, thereby making it a "dollar for dollar" increase to the grant for all qualified UW students.

Moved by Tom Shields, seconded by Kevin Ingram, that in the 2007-09 biennial budget, HEAB request an appropriation for the UW-WHEG program to be modified to increase the UW-WHEG grant for each recipient by an amount equal to the amount that tuition increases, thereby making it a "dollar for dollar" increase to the grant for all qualified UW students.

The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD REPORT #07-07 2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES: WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Governor and the legislature have put their focus on the veterans. The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) urge HEAB to do the same. Wisconsin veterans attending a Wisconsin college or university should not be treated in a discriminatory manner by the State of Wisconsin. These men and women have served us and deserve fair treatment. WAICU urges that HEAB's budget recommendation for the State Veterans Grant adhere to the precedent of all current taxpayer-funded student aid programs administered in the State of Wisconsin.

Moved by Kevin Ingram, seconded by Debbie McKinney, that HEAB recommends incorporating into the biennium budget the State of Wisconsin veterans reimbursement program provide sum sufficient funding to veterans that are enrolled at any college or university in the State of Wisconsin up to an amount equal to UW-Madison tuition.

Liz Tucker stated that UW and Tech have been required by law to cover the costs of veterans' tuition for one year and the campuses are providing the funding for this program. Liz strongly

feels that the current Veterans Tuition Remission reimbursement only include UW and Tech because they are trying to re-cover funds for the tuition remission in the budget request. Milton McPike added more clarification when he stated that there are really two issues being discussed. The first issue is that UW and Tech are asking to be re-paid for the money already committed to this program. The second issue is that WAICU wants to be included in the Veterans Tuition Remission program. Ann Greenheck asked for clarification from Morna Foy from WTCS who stipulated that the current motion refers to a grant, not tuition remission. Morna gave a brief history of the statutes affecting UW-System and Technical College System Schools. She pointed out that there is currently a tuition grant program through Department of Veterans Affairs and that students at private and independent schools still have this grant available. Because statutes require that veterans not have to pay tuition at UW or Tech schools, veterans at these schools no longer qualify for the tuition grant from Veteran's Affairs.

Kevin Ingram withdrew his motion. Debbie McKinney who seconded the motion agreed to withdraw the motion.

Moved by Tom Shields, seconded by Milton McPike to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and Chair Mary Jo Green adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted by
Debra McKinney, Secretary