

DISCUSSION/ACTION
February 17, 2012

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #12-10

2012-13 WHEG - UWS PROGRAM FORMULA

**PROPOSED 2012-2013 FORMULA
WISCONSIN HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM**

**February 17, 2012
BOARD REPORT #12-10**

Recommendation of the University of Wisconsin System President Kevin Reilly:

(\$5960 – EFC) x 40% = Award

(Student Budget – Expected Family Contribution) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: \$2,384 Minimum Award: \$784

Other Information

2012-2013 Appropriation: \$58,345,400

2011-2012 Appropriation: \$58,345,400

2010-2011 Appropriation: \$58,345,400

2009-2010 Appropriation: \$55,000,000

2008-2009 Appropriation: \$55,000,000

2007-2008 Appropriation: \$50,000,000

Current Formula - 1112:

(\$5,960 – EFC) x 41% = Award

(Student Budget – Expected Family Contribution) x Student Award Percentage = Award

Maximum Award: \$2,444 Minimum Award: \$804

Current Year Spending: All of the 2011-2012 funds will be spent.

Applicants: As of February 7, 2011 there were 105,284 applicants compared to 102,222 at the same time last year.



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February 9, 2012

John Reinemann, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board
131 W. Wilson Street, Suite 902
PO Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Executive Secretary Reinemann:

Thank you for the opportunity to forward the University of Wisconsin System's recommendation on the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) formula. UW System's WHEG Formula Advisory Committee met to discuss the current WHEG formula and has submitted a recommendation for the 2012-13 funding formula for my approval.

Based on the Committee's advice, my recommendation is that the 2012-13 formula distribute the grants using a budget of \$5,960 and a rationing factor of 40%, with a maximum expected family contribution of \$4,000. Compared to the formula used to award grants during 2011-12, grant amounts will decrease 2.5% in order to provide awards to more students. The maximum award will decrease from \$2,444 to \$2,384, with a minimum award of \$784. The minimum award under the proposed formula reflects a decrease from \$804 in 2011-12, and the proposal also reflects a decrease in the rationing factor from the 41% used during 2011-12.

This decline reflects a continued, and significant, move away from the historic approach of the WHEG award covering 50% of tuition for students with the most financial need, and reflects the fact that WHEG funding has not kept pace with the concomitant rises in the number of eligible students and financial need. However, we took this step in order to address the more than 6,500 eligible students who were wait-listed in 2010-11 and did not receive an award.

In addition, we will continue to use the institutional allocation approach that was initially implemented during 2011-12. For 2012-13, we are proposing that grants be provided to students at UW System institutions in proportion to the two-year average of Pell Grants received at each UW institution, rather than the previously used three-year average. This revision will better reflect the distribution of WHEG-eligible students across the UW System institutions.

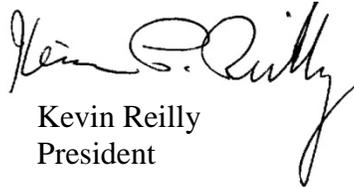
It is anticipated that, given the same level of WHEG funding as 2011-12, the proposed 2012-13 formula will provide awards to more students and continue to focus WHEG dollars on those students with the most financial need. I believe that the proposed formula strikes the difficult

balance between funding as many eligible students as possible while still providing grants in meaningful amounts that will help low-income students access a world-class UW education.

I must point out again this year that these changes, including the reduction in award amounts in order to provide grants to additional eligible students, all of whom have significant financial need, are necessitated by the continuing insufficient funding for the state need-based financial aid programs. I look forward to working with the Board during the 2013-15 Budget process to secure the additional, critically needed funding for need-based financial aid that is required in order to fully fund the commitment that the state has made to low-income students.

Finally, I want to offer my appreciation to the HEAB staff for working with us to develop this recommendation. I look forward to hearing your final decision following the meeting of the Higher Educational Aids Board on February 17, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin S. Reilly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Kevin Reilly
President

Copy: Regent Spector
Regent Smith
Regent Bartell
Randy McCready, UW-Parkside
Chancellors
Cabinet
Financial Aid Officers