

**State of Wisconsin  
Higher Educational Aids Board**

**Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2019**

**Board Members Present:** Stephen Willett, Robert Welch via phone, Jeff Cichon, Amy Christen, Delany Zimmer, Nathaniel Helm-Quest, Jennifer Kammerud via phone, Timothy Opgenorth and Ex-Officio member Paul Trebian.

**HEAB Staff Present:** Connie Hutchison, Sherrie Nelson, and Darcy Burke.

**Others Present:** John Whitt, UW Madison; Sean Nelson, UWSA; Todd Bailey UWSA; David Boardman, UW; Monique Currie, WTCS; Mary Czech-Mrochinski, Marquette University and Jennifer Conway, Marquette University.

Chair Stephen Willett called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Moved by Jeff Cichon, seconded by Tim Opgenorth to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2018 Board Meeting; approved unanimously. Moved by Jeff Cichon, seconded by Tim Opgenorth to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2019 Board Meeting; approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Executive Secretary Hutchison reported on the Student Loan Debt Refinancing Study Task Force. She reported about the roundtable event that occurred in La Crosse and informed about the similar event happening in Milwaukee next week. There was discussion about this and members asked for information to be shared as it is collected.

**SETTING OF 2019-2020 MEETING DATES:**

Friday, November 1, 2019                      February 14, 2020                      April 10, 2020                      July 17, 2020

These dates were moved by Tim Opgenorth and seconded by Nathaniel Helm-Quest, adopted unanimously.

**BOARD REPORT #20-01 2019-2020 MN/WI RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT – For Information only  
Purpose**

In order to implement the statutory authority and the formal interstate agreement negotiated between the two states, this administrative agreement has been prepared to specify administrative procedures of the program.

## **ELECTION OF 2019-2020 BOARD OFFICERS:**

Elections were held for three board positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Chair Stephen Willett opened the floor for nominations. Stephen Willett nominated a slate of Stephen Willet for Chair, Robert Welch for Vice Chair, and Jeff Cichon for Secretary and Timothy Opgenorth seconded the nomination of the slate. All of the officers were elected by unanimous consent of the Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Minority Teacher Loan – for information only
  - a. In the 2019-20 State Budget, the legislature restored funding for the Minority Teacher Loan so the appropriation is now \$259,500. Additionally there is a bill working it's way through the legislature that would change the requirements for forgiveness. Currently graduates must teach in the Milwaukee Public Schools to qualify for forgiveness. The bill would change that requirement to teaching in a district with at least a specified percentage of minority students. This would allow students to teach in other public school districts. The bill is still in committee as the specified percentage is debated. Both the increased funding and the change in the required percentage of minority students will allow for more scholarships to be awarded.
- b) Academic Excellence Scholarship – for information only – There was discussion that it is also a challenge for schools to know how to break a tie.
  - a. Secretary Hutchison reported that school district's procedures for designating an academic scholar did not follow the recommended practice. She is working with the district to update their AES policy and is also in contact with the School Boards Association with an offer to present at their fall conference about the scholarship and proper administration.
- c) Student Loan Debt Task Force – for information only - There was discussion about using the resources of WAICU, WTCS and UWSA, along with a request for sharing of information as it is collected.
  - a. On Tuesday, July 23 members of the Student Loan Debt Task Force will meet with Milwaukee area residents and institutions for a roundtable discussion about the effects of Wisconsin's \$24 billion student loan debt problem on individuals and the community. Milwaukee serves as the second in a state-wide series of roundtable discussions featuring community and Student Loan Debt Task Force members. The series of roundtable discussions is part of a larger effort to understand the scope of the student debt problem in Wisconsin. Through these discussions, the Task Force seeks to gain greater insight into how shouldering high-interest student debt shapes individual life choices and the larger economic development of the community. The ultimate goal of the Student Loan Debt Task Force is to provide individuals with tangible debt relief in the present so that they may actually be able to plan for the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Tim Opgenorth, seconded by Jeff Cichon to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and Chair Stephen Willett adjourned the meeting at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Cichon, Secretary