

2012 COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL AID CONSOLIDATION AND MODERNIZATION

Summary of Meeting – Tuesday, July 24, 2012

At the July 24, 2012 meeting, the Commission met to discuss issues of funding the HEAB grant programs, including funding levels generally (but not specific dollar amounts); the possibility of recommending a statutory link between funding levels for HEAB grants and UW tuition levels; and recommendations for allowing part-time students to have increased opportunities to receive HEAB grants.

1. Discussion of funding levels included consideration of the ideas that
 - a. Unmet student need may be a useful measure for establishing targeted funding levels
 - b. The Commission's funding recommendations may be made in two stages, one a relatively short-term or biennial recommendation and the second stage being the establishment of a long-term funding goal (perhaps to be measured by unmet need)

No consensus agreement on this issue was reached at the meeting.

2. Discussion of a possible statutory link a statutory link between funding levels for HEAB grants and UW tuition levels included a consensus agreement that the 2012 Commission recommend re-establishment of such a link in an effective manner, with UW tuition being the basis for appropriations supporting WHEG-UW, WHEG-Tribal and WTG, and that WTCS tuition would be the basis for the appropriation supporting WHEG-WTCS.
3. Discussion of possible changes to HEAB grant programs to allow part-time students increased grant opportunities included a discussion of the proration available under WTG, and discussion of extending this to WHEG. Also discussed were the potential for creating new levels of proration for students enrolled at less than one-half time.

No consensus agreement on this issue was reached at the meeting.

The Commission reaffirmed its plan to meet next on Tuesday, August 7 in order to complete its discussions of the above topics, and to begin discussions on the potential for consolidation of the HEAB grant programs, which could include the Academic Excellence Scholarship program and the various loan-forgiveness programs; as well as to discuss possible administrative changes to Wisconsin Covenant pending its scheduled sunset.