

DISCUSSION/ACTION
August 29, 2006

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #07-06

2007-2009 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Hold Harmless Tuition Grant

BUSINESS, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is greatly concerned that children from lower-income backgrounds are facing a future with fewer opportunities and, therefore, has made it a priority to increase the possibility for low-income students to participate in public higher education in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Board of Regents have endorsed a new “college is possible program” called the Wisconsin Covenant; which would ask eligible eighth-grade students to sign a pledge to academically and socially prepare for college, and

WHEREAS, in return for students fulfilling the pledge, the state of Wisconsin would provide students with state grant aid to cover tuition and fees at higher education institutions in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, since the earliest a student eligible for the Wisconsin Covenant will enroll in an institution of higher education is 2011, the Board of Regents believes additional grant aid is needed now to assist those lower-income students who are currently attending a UW institution, or who plan to attend prior to 2011;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System supports the creation of a Hold Harmless Tuition Grant 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board appreciates the willingness of the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) to administer a Hold Harmless Tuition Grant program, and supports including funding for the program and its administrative costs in HEAB’s budget in order to keep college affordable for all financially needy students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board requests the statutory language and appropriation for the UW-Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (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.