

DISCUSSION/ACTION
July 29, 2016

HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

BOARD REPORT #17-04

2017-2019 BIENNIAL BUDGET ISSUES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM



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July 12, 2016

Steve Midthun, Chair
John Reinemann, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board
PO Box 7885
Madison, WI 53707-7885

Via Electronic Mail

Dear Board Chair Midthun and Executive Secretary Reinemann:

Enclosed with this letter please find a resolution adopted by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System at their June 2016 meeting, along with the supporting materials that were provided. This resolution contains the recommendations for the Wisconsin Grant-UW program that the Board has requested be included in the Higher Educational Aids Board's (HEAB) 2017-19 Biennial Budget submission.

State funding for the Wisconsin Grant-UW program is \$58.3 million and has not increased since 2010-11. However, since 2008-09 the number of students eligible for Wisconsin Grants-UW has increased from 28,132 in 2008-09 to 34,521 in 2014-15, an increase of 23 percent. In order to provide a Wisconsin Grant to this growing population of eligible students, the UW System decreased the award amounts to individual recipients.

As a result, the number of Wisconsin Grant-UW recipients increased by 28% between 2009-10 and 2014-15, from 25,624 recipients to 32,885 recipients; but the average grant award decreased by 18%, from \$2,161 to \$1,773. To return average grants to the 2009-10 level of \$2,161 the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents recommends an increase of \$6,384,100 in 2017-18 and an additional \$6,384,100 in 2018-19, or a biennial increase of \$19,152,300.

The requested 2017-19 funding for the Wisconsin Grant program will help more students access and complete a quality higher education program, producing a more highly skilled and educated workforce. Additional resources for the Wisconsin Grant program will also help address student debt and affordability, two areas of growing concern to the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you for considering these proposals for inclusion in HEAB's 2017-19 biennial budget request. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross".

Ray Cross