

UW-Madison Initiative for Undergraduates  
First Year Progress Report – Executive Summary  
October, 2010

## Goals and Costs

The Madison Initiative for Undergraduates was approved in April 2009 by the Board of Regents. It involves a supplemental tuition charge to be phased in over four years to improve the quality and long-term value of undergraduate education while making it affordable to all. The tuition charge is used to add faculty and instructional support in high-demand and emerging areas, increase access to high-impact educational practices and improve vital student services. It also significantly increases need-based financial aid by matching the tuition revenues devoted to financial aid with private fundraising.

Beginning in Fall 2009, tuition is increased by \$250 per year for resident undergraduates and \$750 per year for non-resident undergraduates over a four year period (through Fall 2012). By the end of the four years the tuition increase is expected to add \$40M to instructional funding.

Approximately half of the new funds are used for need-based financial aid; students with unmet financial need receive more grant aid and all students from families with an adjusted gross income of less than \$80K are held harmless for the increase.

## Review Processes and Allocations

Two committees (Student Board appointed by the Associated Students of Madison and the MIU Oversight Committee, comprised of faculty, staff, students and administrators) review proposals and make recommendations to the chancellor on funding decisions.

Approximately \$12M has been allocated through Rounds 1 and 2 of the MIU award competition (\$4M in Round 1 and \$8M in Round 2). The Round 3 competition in the 2010-11 year will award the remaining \$4M. (Approximately \$4M is set aside for overhead and fringe benefits associated with new hires.)

## Some Early Impacts:

### 1. Hiring in High Demand and Emerging Demand Areas

1.a. Through Rounds 1 and 2, the MIU has funded the authorization to hire

54.5 FTE faculty members

7 FTE for instructional academic staff and 12 FTE for other permanent academic staff in student support and other academic support roles.

77 50% FTE for new TA positions

7 FTE of short-term staff positions will be added for up to two years to support advising, introductory biology, and e-learning during the planning period for these umbrella projects.

1.b. Hires were made in high demand and bottleneck areas, such as economics, chemistry, psychology, Spanish, International studies, physiology, agricultural economics, history, political science, and social work.

1.c. Hires were made in emerging areas, such as business Chinese, Japanese and Korean, global public health, digital studies and literacy, and international internships.

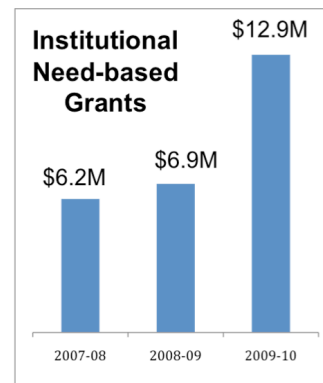
## 2. Need-based Financial Aid

2.a. Funds from MIU added \$5.1M in need-based institutional grants in 2009-10. Institutional grant dollars increased by 86% over the prior year (\$12.9 million compared to \$6.9 million in 2008-09 and \$6.2 million in 2007-08).

2.b. In 2009-10, 6,057 students received a “Hold Harmless Grant”; a total of \$1.7 million went to students with demonstrated financial need and an adjusted family income of less than \$80,000 annually (based on their FAFSA).

2.c. A total of 1,260 students who had financial need received a UW-Madison Grant; a total of \$3.4 million went to these students.

2.d. In 2009-10, 14% more students than in the prior year were served by the FASTrack program, which provides need based institutional grants given to the neediest students.



## 3. Educational Innovations and Improvements

### 3.a. Advising

- Advising has been expanded into the residence halls and undergraduate libraries.
- *AdvisorNotes* (on-line note-taking and sharing system) was developed and rolled out during SOAR 2010, now serving over 90% of the first-year class.
- The number of pre-health advisors was doubled and the number of career advisors in L&S was increased by 50%.
- Money was set aside to comprehensively reform undergraduate advising. A work team will deliver their plan early in the 2011 year.

3.b. Work is underway to comprehensively reform introductory biology; the development team will deliver their plan to campus early in the Fall 2010 semester. Money was set aside from Round 1 to fund this reform.

3.c. Money was set aside to develop e-learning spaces that will provide better instruction to more students in introductory/gateway courses. Pilots are beginning in pre-calculus and engineering (Intro to Circuits) in the 2010-11 year.

3.d. 45 FIGs will be offered to an estimated 900 students this fall, and will grow to 60 FIGs by 2014 (vs. 32 FIGs for 600 students in Fall 2009).

3.e. A new Residential Learning Community opened this fall (Green House), with two more opening by 2014.

3.f. An online e-tutorial for international students went live in July 2010, and has already been accessed by students from 76 countries since mid summer.

**A full accounting of Round 1 and 2 allocations can be viewed at  
<http://apa.wisc.edu/MIU/>**