

# **UW-Madison Initiative for Undergraduates**

## **Second Year Progress Report – Executive Summary**

### **September, 2011**

#### **Goals and Costs**

The Madison Initiative for Undergraduates was approved in April 2009 by the Board of Regents. It involves a tuition surcharge 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.

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

Approximately half of the new funds are used for need-based financial aid; grants go to students with unmet financial need and all students from families with an adjusted gross income of less than \$80K are held harmless for the increase. The other half of the new funds are for improvements in undergraduate education and funding decisions were made through a competitive grant review process.

#### **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) reviewed proposals and made recommendations to the provost and chancellor on funding decisions. The competition rounds were completed in spring 2011 and the MIU Oversight Committee will have an ongoing oversight role until at least 2014 (five years after original approval).

The full \$20M in funding allocated for the undergraduate experience was allocated in three rounds of competitions for funding: approximately \$4M in Round 1 (Fall 2009), \$8M in Round 2 (Spring 2010); \$4M in Round 3 (Spring 2011); and a \$4M allocation for overhead and fringe benefits associated with new hires.

#### **Selected Highlights**

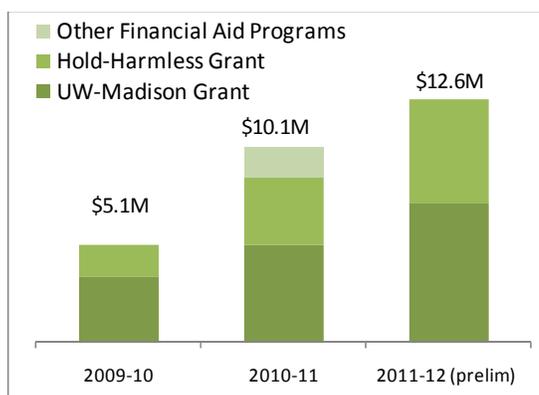
- 54 projects were selected for funding from a total of 199 proposals submitted in rounds 1, 2, and 3.
- 76 new faculty positions were awarded across 20 departments; 31 new faculty across 12 departments are hired and on-campus by Fall 2011; new faculty positions are allocated to high demand and bottle neck areas, such as economics, chemistry, psychology, Spanish, International studies, physiology, history, political science, and social work.
- 36 academic staff positions (FTE) were added to expand instruction and student services. An additional 24 undergraduate advisor positions were allocated from the advising set-aside fund.
- Approximately 120 50% teaching assistants were added (63.5 FTE total); this adds capacity for approximately 10,000 student course enrollments in TA-taught sections.
- 1,100 students enrolled in 54 First-year Interest Groups in Fall 2011, an 80% increase in FIGs enrollment over Fall 2009 before MIU funding.
- The Chemistry Learning Center increased the number of students they supported annually from about 250 students to 429 students in 2010-11 and now support students in all 16 primary sections of Chem 103, 104, and 108.
- The International Student e-tutorial served 7,334 students and prospective students from 138 countries in the first 12 months of operation; 70% of the visitors were served at times that were outside of UW-Madison's regular business hours.

- 300 students were served by UHS's MIU-funded mental health case worker in the first three months the service was available.
- New undergraduate certificates in Global Health and in Japanese Professional Communication were approved; certificates in Digital Studies, Chinese Professional Communication, Educational Services, and Mass Communications are being developed.
- Students in several pre-calculus math courses are already benefiting from innovative pedagogy and e-learning spaces. The project, known as WisCEL (the Wisconsin Collaboratory for Enhanced Learning) covered sections of Math 095, Math 101, and Math 112 in 2010-11. In 2011-12 most offerings of these classes will shift to the e-learning environment. Planning is underway to expand to selected Engineering classes and to language classes.

## MIU-Funded Financial Aid

- Institutional need-based financial aid increased to \$13.7 million in 2010-11, up from only \$6.9 million in 2008-09 before MIU contributed to need-based institutional aid. Resident tuition is still among the lowest among Big 10 institutions.
- In the first two years of MIU, 8,458 students received a "Hold Harmless Grant"; a total of \$5.2 million went to these students who had demonstrated financial need and an adjusted family income of less than \$80,000 annually. A total of 2,140 students who had financial need received a UW-Madison Grant (\$8.4 million, average award of \$3,900). Another \$1.6 million was distributed through other programs.
- Over the first two years, MIU funded \$15.1 million in grants to undergraduates. In August 2011, \$12.6 million in MIU grants had already been awarded. Final numbers for 2011-12 will be available at the end of the academic year.

MIU-Funded Financial Aid and Grants



## Undergraduate Advising

- Five MIU projects focused on undergraduate advising, a priority named by students for MIU. Among the projects was a \$1.5M set aside to re-envision undergraduate advising. A task force was established in April 2010 to develop a campus-wide plan to realize goals for improved and coordinated advising.
- The task force delivered a comprehensive plan in Spring 2011 that was endorsed by the MIU-OC and accepted by the provost and chancellor. Recommendations included adding 24 new undergraduate advisors, centralizing advising by establishing an Office of Undergraduate Advising under the leadership of a new director, improving technology to support advising, and improving training for advisors.
- Among the 24 new advising positions, 8 positions were permanently allocated to pre-health advising (3 positions), advising of exploring/undecided students (2 positions), transfer student advising (2 positions), pre-Law advising (1 position). These permanent allocations were based on strong impact of temporary positions in these roles. For example, the Center for Pre-Health Advising had 976 walk-in or by-appointment advising sessions and 11,500 visitors to their web site in the first year (2010-11).
- The remaining 16 new advisor positions will be allocated through a competitive proposal process.
- The search for a new Director of Undergraduate Advising is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.
- MIU projects have included some technological advances. For example, *Advisor Notes*, an on-line note-taking and sharing system, allows a student's advising history to be available at any advising appointment. First rolled out in summer 2010, by the end of May 2011, *Advisor Notes* included almost 30,000 notes for 17,000 students and was used by 85 advising units and 276 faculty and staff.

Full details and comprehensive reports on MIU can be viewed at

<http://madisoninitiative.wisc.edu/>