

MADISON INITIATIVE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Third Year Progress Report - Activity in the 2011-12 Academic Year

Executive Summary

MIU Goals

The Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (MIU) was approved in April 2009 by the Board of Regents. MIU uses funds from a tuition surcharge to improve the quality and long-term value of undergraduate education while making it affordable to all. MIU adds faculty and instructional support in high-demand and emerging areas, increases access to high-impact educational practices and improves vital student services. Institutional need-based financial aid is also significantly increased.

MIU is expected to add \$40M to instructional funding and financial aid by the 2012-13 academic year. Tuition was 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).

MIU-Funded 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.

- In the first three years of MIU (2009-2012), 10,840 students received a Hold Harmless Grant; a total of \$10.2 million went to these students who had demonstrated financial need and an adjusted family income of less than \$80,000 annually (based on their FAFSA).
- A total of 2,168 students who had high financial need received a UW-Madison Grant; a total of \$11.2 million went to these students with an average award of \$4,000.
- Another 2,995 students with moderate financial need received a UW-Madison Initiative Grant; a total of \$5.7 million went to these students with an average award of \$1,900.
- Another \$3.4 million was awarded to students through other MIU-funded need-based financial aid programs.
- As of August 2012, \$17.5 million of MIU-funding Hold Harmless Grants and UW-Madison Grants had already been awarded to 6,697 students for 2012-13.

MIU Projects for Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience

Half of the new funds directly support improvements in undergraduate education. The full \$20M was allocated in three rounds of competition for funding: approximately \$4M in Round 1 (Fall 2009), \$8M in Round 2 (Spring 2010); \$4M in Round 3 (Spring 2011); plus a \$4M allocation for overhead and fringe benefits associated with new hires. Two committees – the 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 MIU Oversight Committee has an ongoing oversight role and meets annually to review progress on MIU.

Funding allocations included:

- 54 projects were funded to enhance the educational experience.
- 78 new faculty positions were awarded across 20 departments (total, all three rounds). An additional 7.7 FTE of faculty lines were funded on a flexible basis to support targeted MIU projects.
- 61 new faculty across 20 departments were hired and on campus by Fall 2012. Two additional faculty were hired but are not yet on campus. Searches to fill the remaining few positions are on-going or planned for 2013-14.
- Approximately 140 TA positions (69 FTE total) were added, which increases the capacity for approximately 10,000 student enrollments in TA-taught sections.
- 36 academic staff positions (FTE) were added to expand instruction and student services and an additional 24 new advisor positions were created, most of which were filled by July 2012.

Highlights of progress in selected MIU projects in the past year include:

- 1,008 students enrolled in 55 First-year Interest Groups in Fall 2012, an 80% increase in FIGs enrollment over Fall 2009 before MIU funding. For spring 2013, eight FIGs for 160 are planned. The FIGs program was recognized for contributions to improvements in undergraduate education over the past decade with the 2012 Regent's Award for Excellence in Teaching.
- The Common Scholarship Application now has 88 campus units listing 750 scholarships on the public web site, 75 units making use of the on-line scholarship application, and 29 units preparing to launch in the next application cycle. In 2011-12, 6,229 applications were submitted by 5,156 separate students; 720 students were awarded nearly \$1.5M in scholarships through the award functionality. More than \$5M has been awarded to students through CSA since it went live in 2009.
- The University Health Services (UHS) case management system has provided service far beyond the projected caseload: staff received 451 referrals from campus units, met with 296 students, and scheduled additional follow-up appointments with 110 students.
- The International Internships program nearly tripled the number of students participating to 222 students (a 271% increase over baseline). Similarly, the Internships in the Liberal Arts program increased participation to 102 students, a 35% increase over the prior year.
- New undergraduate certificates in Global Health and in Japanese Professional Communication, Digital Studies, and Chinese Professional Communication were implemented.
- Faculty in a number of departments that received MIU funding for faculty lines were revamping courses and making substantial curricular reforms. Examples include Chemistry, Economics, English, French and Italian, History, Journalism, Psychology, Political Science, and Spanish and Italian
- In 2011-12 nearly 1000 students were enrolled in 21 sections of pre-calculus Math courses and Engineering courses in the WisCEL e-learning spaces (the Wisconsin Collaboratory for Enhanced Learning). For 2012-13, a projected 65 sections with enrollments of 3,000 will be offered. Starting in Fall 2012, all pre-calculus math will be offered in the WisCEL format.
- The Office of the Director of Undergraduate Advising was launched with a new director, new infrastructure, expanded support for advisors, and more than 2 dozen new advisors who are expanding student access to advisors.

Full details and comprehensive reports on MIU can be viewed at

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