

MADISON INITIATIVE FOR UNDERGRADUATES

Progress Report - Activity in the 2012-13 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 the undergraduate educational experience while making it more affordable to all. MIU has added faculty and instructional support in high-demand and emerging areas, increased access to high-impact educational practices and improved vital student services. Institutional need-based financial aid has also been significantly increased.

In total, the \$40M of MIU funding is divided equally between funding for instructional support and student services and funding for need-based financial aid. Under MIU, undergraduate 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

Half of the MIU 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 were held harmless from the tuition increases.

- In the first four years of MIU, \$50.9 million of MIU funds were distributed in need-based grants.
 - 12,930 students received a Hold Harmless Grant - A total of \$17.0 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).
 - 2,620 students who had high financial need received a UW-Madison Grant - A total of \$15.2 million went to these students with an average award of \$4,300.
 - Another 4,911 students with moderate financial need received a UW-Madison Initiative Grant. \$13.3 million went to these students with an average award of \$2,163.
 - Another \$5.4 million was awarded to students through other MIU-funded need-based financial aid programs.
- In 2012-13, \$20.4 million was distributed to students as need-based institutional grants.
- As of October 2013, 6,742 students had been awarded \$20.4 million in MIU-funded need-based financial aid for 2013-14.
- MIU funding now makes up 22%% of UW-Madison's total need-based aid, up from 15% before MIU.

MIU Projects for Enhancing the Undergraduate Experience

Half of the MIU funds directly support improvements in the undergraduate educational experience. The full \$20M was allocated in three rounds of competition for funding in 2009, 2010, and 2011. 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. Funding allocations included:

- 54 projects were funded to enhance the educational experience.

- 78 new faculty positions were awarded across 20 departments. An additional 7.7 FTE of faculty lines were funded on a flexible basis to support targeted MIU projects.
- Approximately 140 TA positions (69 FTE total) were added, which has increased 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 and filled by the end of 2012.

MIU projects are showing a strong, cumulative impact on the quality of the undergraduate experience. Students have increased opportunities to participate in high-impact practices, a central part of the Wisconsin Experience:

- Internship programs such as the International Internships and Internships in the Liberal Arts program have boosted for-credit internship opportunities in the US and abroad for more than 300 students over the past three years.
- First-year Interest Groups (FIGs) enrolled 1,147 students in 64 FIGs in 2012-13, double that in 2009-10 (32 FIGs enrolling 598 students). The FIGs program was recognized for contributions to undergraduate education with the 2012 Regent's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

A number of expanded and improved curricular opportunities are available for students, including:

- New undergraduate certificates in Global Health, Japanese Professional Communication, Digital Studies, Chinese Professional Communication, and Education
- Faculty are revamping courses and making substantial curricular reforms. Examples include Business/Finance, Chemistry, Economics, English, French and Italian, History, Journalism, Mathematics, Nursing, Philosophy, Physiology, Political Science, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology (Criminal Justice), Spanish and Italian
- WisCEL active learning spaces (the Wisconsin Collaboratory for Enhanced Learning) have served 3,000 students in 29 courses, mostly in Math and Engineering, since 2010-11. Currently, all pre-calculus math courses are being offered in the WisCEL format. WisCEL has demonstrated positive benefits for student learning and strong acceptance among students and faculty.

MIU has provided a substantial expansion of student services in several areas, including:

- The Office of the Director of Undergraduate Advising has provided an infrastructure for coordination and integration of academic advising across the campus resulting in the hiring of 34 new academic advisors and advising leaders who have improved student access to advisors and reduced advisor loads. As a result, more students are being seen in individual and group advising settings.
- Programs like the Transfer Transitions Program (for new transfer students) and the Chemistry and Physics Learning Centers (for students in introductory Chemistry and Physics who benefit from additional tutoring) support specific situations that can otherwise present barriers to progress.
- The Common Scholarship Application, a one-stop shop for students to access department-level scholarships, supported the awarding of \$2.27 million to 1,041 students.

Key indicators of student progress to degree are strong: the number of bachelor's degree graduates has increased, students are making timely progress to degree and graduating at high rates, and nearly 9 in 10 graduates have participated in high-impact activities representative of the Wisconsin Experience.

Full details and comprehensive reports on MIU can be viewed at

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