



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 18, 2005

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #781

Baccalaureate Expansion (UW System)

[LFB 2005-07 Budget Summary: Page 500, #10]

CURRENT LAW

In 2004-05, the adjusted base budget for the UW System totals approximately \$3,822.0 million, of which \$976.6 million or 25.6% is funded from state, general purpose revenues. Approximately 75% of the University's GPR adjusted base budget is provided under an appropriation for general program operations for University education, research, and public service. The UW System has the ability to combine the GPR general program operations funds with monies received from tuition and certain federal indirect cost reimbursements, creating an approximate \$1.5 billion pool of funds that it may use to run its operations.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$1,111,400 GPR in 2006-07 and require that the Board of Regents allocate this funding to implement the recommendations of the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In March, 2004, the UW Board of Regents and the WTCS Board appointed a joint committee of board members, senior administrators, faculty, and students called the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion (COBE). The committee's purpose is to examine the collaborative strategies between the UW System and Wisconsin Technical College System to improve access and expand the number of baccalaureate degree completers in the state.

2. As part of its efforts to improve access and increase the number of baccalaureate degree holders in the state, COBE developed a set of strategies that include developing new degree completion options, expanding access to existing degree completion options, promoting efforts to

improve retention and graduation through increased outreach and financial aid, and encouraging efforts to increase awareness and availability of new and existing postsecondary educational opportunities.

3. AB 100 would provide \$1,111,400 GPR in 2006-07 and require that the Board of Regents allocate this funding to implement COBE's recommendations. The UW System Board of Regents had included a request for \$1,111,400 GPR in their 2005-07 agency budget request to begin implementation of COBE recommendations. The funding requested for COBE was based on an allocation of funds in a larger agency budget request related to faculty retention and student access and was not based on a specific cost estimate for implementing COBE related activities.

4. According to UW System staff, the additional funding would not be directly allocated to all campuses. Instead, the Board of Regents would develop a request for proposals (RFP) process through which an individual campus or a consortia of campuses, including technical college districts, would be granted funds based on criteria established by the Board. The first phase of funding would be utilized to implement the following COBE initiatives: (a) \$400,000 in 2006-07 for developing new degree completion options with funding provided to campuses through a request for proposal process (RFP) that would invite campuses to submit proposals; (b) \$400,000 in 2006-07 to identify and contact students who have dropped out of college after completing a substantial portion of their baccalaureate degree programs, and facilitate their return to complete their degrees -- the funding would be provided through a competitive RFP available to UW System campuses; and (c) \$311,400 to develop a statewide office to identify and contract previous or potential adult students and provide them with information about the options for starting or completing college degrees--the office would be created as a partnership of the UW and WTCS Systems. This funding distribution would be a target for each program; however, the final distribution of funding among these initiatives may vary based on the number and quality of proposals received for each initiative. In addition, the COBE has recommended that full implementation of baccalaureate expansion projects may require additional funding or internal base reallocations among participating institutions.

5. COBE participants recommended the creation of a joint UW System/WTCS committee to oversee the implementation of the recommended strategies for baccalaureate expansion. This committee would coordinate and oversee the development of pilot projects, organize further study of strategies, and plan for the evaluation and implementation of other initiatives.

6. In order to ensure participation from a joint UW System and WTCS committee, the Joint Finance Committee could establish a new annual appropriation under the UW System and require that the Board of Regents award grants in consultation with such a joint committee from the appropriation. These grants could be awarded to individual UW System or WTCS institutions or a consortia of institutions to expand access to existing degree completion options, promote efforts to improve retention and graduation, or increase awareness and availability of new and existing postsecondary educational opportunities.

7. If additional funding would not be provided, the UW System and WTCS would have to implement projects for expanding baccalaureate degrees through internal base reallocations. However, one could argue that the funding provided under AB 100 could provide a modest incentive for institutions to develop innovative programs and leverage existing base resources in order to pilot or implement strategies to expand the number of baccalaureate degree holders in Wisconsin.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation.

2. Modify the Governor's recommendation to provide the funding in a new, annual appropriation in the UW System, and require that the Board of Regents award grants from the appropriation in consultation with a joint UW and WTCS committee on individual UW System or WTCS institutions or a consortia of institutions. Specify that these grants could be used to expand access to existing degree completion options, promote efforts to improve retention and graduation, or increase awareness and availability of new and existing postsecondary educational opportunities.

3. Delete the provision.

Alternative 3	GPR
2005-07 FUNDING (Change to Bill)	- \$1,111,400

Prepared by: John Stott