

University of Wisconsin System

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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #635

Resident Undergraduate Tuition Freeze (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 603, #2]

CURRENT LAW

Under the provisions of 2019 Act 9, the Board of Regents was prohibited from charging resident undergraduate students enrolled in a UW institution or a campus of the former UW Colleges in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years more in tuition than it charged resident undergraduate students enrolled in that institution or campus in 2018-19. No GPR funding was provided in 2019 Act 9 to replace the forgone tuition revenue associated with the tuition freeze.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would prohibit the Board of Regents of the UW System from charging resident undergraduates enrolled in an institution or college campus in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year more in tuition than it charged resident undergraduates enrolled in that institution or college campus in the 2020-21 academic year. The Governor's proposal would provide \$16,800,000 GPR in 2021-22 and \$33,600,000 GPR in 2022-23 to replace the estimated amount of resident undergraduate tuition revenue which could be generated based on a tuition increase of 2% in each year of the biennium. A similar proposal to use GPR funding to replace forgone tuition revenue from the freeze was included in the Governor's 2019-21 budget recommendations, but was deleted by the Joint Finance Committee and Legislature.

2. Beginning in the 2013-15 biennium, each biennial budget act has prohibited increases in resident undergraduate tuition rates. Excluding differential tuition, in the previous six years from 2006-07 through 2012-13, resident undergraduate tuition generally increased by 5.5% annually, except at UW Colleges where it was frozen for four of those six years.

3. The table below shows annual resident undergraduate tuition rates in 2020-21, excluding differential tuition for certain academic departments.

	2020-21 Resident Undergraduate <u>Tuition Rates</u>
Madison	\$9,273
Milwaukee	8,091
Eau Claire	7,361
Green Bay	6,298
La Crosse	7,585
Oshkosh	6,422
Parkside	6,298
Platteville	6,418
River Falls	6,428
Stevens Point	6,698
Stout*	234
Superior	6,535
Whitewater	6,519
Two-Year Campuses	4,750

*UW-Stout charges tuition on a per credit basis.

4. Concerns over college affordability have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, with many higher educational institutions across the United States choosing to increase tuition minimally in 2020-21, if at all. According to the College Board's "Trends in College Pricing and Student Aid 2020" report, "from 2019-20 to 2020-21, the average published two-year in-district tuition and fees froze in 14 states and the average public four-year in-state tuition and fees froze in 10 states. Several private nonprofit colleges also reduced tuition for fall, 2020 or deferred tuition payments." Average published resident tuition and fees at four-year public institutions increased by 1.1% in 2020-21, by \$120 to \$10,560. Average published public, two-year college in-district tuition and fees increased by 1.9%.

5. Resident tuition and fees at UW-Madison in 2012-13 were \$981 below the mid-point of Big Ten institutions and resident tuition and fees at UW-Milwaukee in 2012-13 were \$746 below the mid-point of peer group urban institutions. Since the freeze on resident undergraduate tuition was implemented in 2013-14, UW System institution resident tuition and fees are even lower than those of their peer institutions. Resident tuition and fees at UW-Madison in 2020-21 are \$2,247 below the mid-point of Midwest Big Ten institutions, and resident tuition and fees at UW-Milwaukee are \$2,870 below the mid-point of peer group urban institutions.

6. At the time the freeze was first implemented, part of the discussion concerning tuition related to program revenue balances held by institutions in the UW System, which included a tuition balance of \$551.5 million at the end of 2012-13. Since that time, institutions in the UW System have used a portion of these one-time tuition moneys and drawn down the balance, which was \$227.3 million at the end of 2019-20. Total PR balances have also declined from \$1,273.5 million in 2012-

13 to \$1,225.8 million in 2019-20, though less significantly as a result of increases in balances from gift moneys (\$149.5 million in 2012-13 to \$342.9 million in 2019-20) and in auxiliary operations (\$188.7 million to \$250.2 million).

7. The UW System's operating budget pools GPR and PR funding, with tuition representing approximately 56% of the total (\$1.5 billion out of a total of \$2.7 billion in 2020-21). Resident undergraduate tuition generates from 55% to 60% of all tuition revenue at UW System institutions, so that a tuition freeze results in no growth in approximately 31% to 34% of the UW System's base operating revenue.

8. The tuition freeze has been supported as a matter of policy as an approach to reduce the cost of college for students. Since 2012-13, CPI has increased by 12.7%. If one assumes that absent a freeze resident undergraduate tuition would have increased by CPI, then students in 2020-21 would pay from \$603 to \$1,178 less in annual tuition than they might otherwise have paid, depending on the institution they attend.

9. Staff from the UW System indicate that the proposed GPR funding could be used to support the tuition share of the compensation and fringe benefit increases proposed for the 2021-23 biennium. This would avoid the reallocation of \$20.7 million of base funding from UW System institutions to fully fund the tuition share of the increase due to the continued tuition freeze. Remaining funding could be used for purposes such as student services funding or other initiatives at the discretion of the UW System Board of Regents and President.

10. Generally during economic downturns, lower opportunity costs of attending college lead to an increase in enrollment. However, the economic downturn associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has not led to an increase in enrollment and has instead led to some declining enrollment likely due to student health concerns. Fall resident undergraduate UW System enrollment declined by 2.5% from 106,900 in fall, 2019 to 104,288 in fall, 2020. As resident undergraduate tuition revenue makes up more than half of all tuition revenues, declining enrollments put increased pressure on UW System institution budgets.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Freeze Resident Undergraduate Tuition

1. Prohibit the Board of Regents from charging resident undergraduates enrolled in an institution or college campus in the 2021-22 or 2022-23 academic year more in tuition than it charged resident undergraduates enrolled in that institution or college campus in the 2020-21 academic year.

2. Take no action. Under this option, the Board of Regents would have authority to set tuition for resident undergraduates at its discretion.

B. Backfill Forgone Tuition Revenue with GPR Funding

1. Provide \$16,800,000 in 2021-22 and \$33,600,000 in 2022-23 to replace estimated resident undergraduate tuition revenue that otherwise could have been generated based on a tuition

increase of 2% each year of the biennium.

ALT B1	Change to Base
GPR	\$50,400,000

2. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #636

UW System General Program Operations (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 603, #3]

CURRENT LAW

Most of the GPR funding for the UW System is provided in a general program operations appropriation with base level funding of \$950.1 million. There is also a GPR debt service appropriation with base level funding of \$214.0 million and four other smaller GPR appropriations with combined funding of \$6.3 million.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would provide an additional \$20 million annually for UW System operations in the UW System's largest GPR appropriation for general program operations. DOA budget staff indicate this additional funding would be flexible and discretionary, and may be used to address COVID-19 challenges.

2. To show the long-term trend of GPR funding for the UW System, the UW System's internal budget document (the Redbook) can be used to show GPR funding allocated by spending purpose. Excluding debt service, GPR funding for UW System operations totaled \$1,024 million in 2010-11. For 2020-21, the comparable number is \$964 million GPR. Over that time, the consumer price index (CPI) increased by 18.7%, so this reduction is even more substantial if adjusted for inflation. Table 1 shows the UW System's GPR operating budget from 2010-11 through 2020-21.

TABLE 1

**UW System GPR Operating Budget
Excluding Debt Service
(in Millions)**

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2010-11	\$1,023.9	2016-17	\$832.9
2011-12	903.1	2017-18	840.4
2012-13	930.5	2018-19	904.5
2013-14	915.5	2019-20	936.2
2014-15	933.1	2020-21	963.5
2015-16	802.5		

3. Since spring, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on UW System's operations and financial condition. Beginning in March, 2020, UW System institutions began taking a series of actions in response to the pandemic. These included: recalling spring study abroad students, suspending spring study abroad programs, and cancelling summer study abroad programs; cancelling University-sponsored travel, including athletic travel (UW System estimates reduced travel reimbursements will have generated approximately \$34 million in cost savings by the end of May, 2021); closing residence halls (with some exceptions for students unable to find alternative lodging, or for those with special approval); limiting access to campus buildings to essential personnel with non-essential employees telecommuting; cancelling campus events; moving spring and summer instruction to online/alternative delivery; and providing select campus buildings for state and local government or health system use (for example, UW-Stevens Point's Hyler Hall was available for city emergency management services use).

4. To address fiscal challenges due to COVID-19, the Board of Regents authorized the UW System to implement a variety of workforce reduction and cost-saving measures, including furloughs. Furloughed employees remain in employment status and are eligible to continue their health insurance benefits. UW System estimates that employee furloughs will have generated \$65.3 million in savings through May, 2021.

5. Through summer 2020, classes remained online, with some in-person instruction resuming in fall, 2020 with social distancing guidelines and testing procedures in place. According to the UW System President's office, the UW System has taken a lead role in expanding COVID-19 testing in Wisconsin. The UW System Emergency Operation Center (EOC) provides updated data online regarding coronavirus statistics and a snapshot of COVID-19 testing from each campus is available daily through the coronavirus dashboard. In November, 2020, the System's universities opened surge testing sites in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which has provided 250,000 rapid-results antigen tests that provide a result within 15 minutes. These testing sites are free and open to the general public. As of April 10, 2021, UW System institutions had conducted over one million COVID-19 tests on UW System campuses including rapid-results antigen tests.

6. Through May, 2021, UW estimates a loss of \$272.8 million in forgone auxiliary revenues (such as housing and dining revenue), with over 50% attributed to UW-Madison. Additionally, UW System estimates approximately \$34.8 million in lost revenues from COVID-19-related enrollment declines. Other significant costs include testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and technology/telecommuting. In addition to lost revenues and other financial impacts of the pandemic, UW System was also required by the Department of Administration to lapse \$41 million in fiscal year 2019-20 and \$45 million in 2020-21 to the general fund. Including required lapses, UW estimates total expenses and revenue losses associated with COVID-19 will reach approximately \$534 million through May, 2021, as shown in Table 2, after taking into account cost savings and expenditure reductions from travel restrictions, hiring controls, and other savings including utility savings, debt refinancing, renegotiated contracts, and supply spending controls.

TABLE 2
UW System Estimated COVID-19-Related Expenses
and Lost Revenue through May, 2021
(\$ in Millions)

Lost Auxiliary and Other Revenues	\$272.8
Net COVID-related Expenses	131.5
Required State Lapses and Unfunded FY20 Pay Plan*	94.8
COVID-related enrollment (tuition) loss	<u>34.8</u>
Total	\$533.9

*Includes \$8.8 million in payplan increases UW had anticipated would be covered by DOA but were not.

7. Over the past year, the federal government has passed three coronavirus relief measures: the CARES Act in March, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRSA) Act in December, 2020, and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in March, 2021. Each of these acts provided funds to higher institutions to address the impacts of the coronavirus. Through these three acts, UW System received a total of nearly \$600 million in federal funds, including approximately \$232 million provided for direct aid to students and \$73 million for COVID-19 testing.

8. As shown in Table 3, UW System estimates the net financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic at approximately \$168 million through May, 2021. UW System notes that the federal funding is one-time funding meant to assist higher educational institutions in mitigating losses from the pandemic through the fall, 2021. COVID-19 testing is expected to continue at all UW institutions for the duration of the spring 2021 semester and UW System is also partnering with the state to implement vaccination sites at UW System locations. As ongoing costs associated with COVID-19 may continue into the 2021-23 biennium, it could be argued additional funding should be provided each year. UW System also notes they are continuing with cost reductions and monitoring cash flow and available resources. Providing an additional \$20 million annually would also provide an increase to UW System base funding.

TABLE 3

**UW System Estimated COVID-19 Net Financial Impact
March, 2020 through May, 2021
(\$ in Millions)**

Total Expenses and Lost Revenue	-\$534
Federal Funding*	<u>366</u>
Net Financial Impact	-\$168

*Excluding Direct Student Aid

9. While the additional funding could be utilized for COVID-19 related costs, DOA notes it would be flexible and discretionary. For example, funding could be utilized for priorities at individual institutions, or perhaps to increase funding for institutions with higher relative declines in enrollment. Or, if funding is not provided for other items proposed by the Governor through the budget act, this increased funding could be utilized to fund some of those items.

10. If the Committee wishes to provide funding primarily to partially offset the losses attributable to COVID-19, the funding could be one-time. In this case, the \$40 million could be provided in the first year of the biennium so ongoing funding would remain unchanged. The UW System's GPR general program operations appropriation is biennial, so the UW System could expend these moneys in either year of the 2021-23 biennium.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$20 million GPR annually in the UW system general program operations appropriation.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$40,000,000

2. Provide \$40 million GPR in 2021-22 in the UW system general program operations appropriation.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$40,000,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #637

UW System Revenue Investment (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 605, #6]

CURRENT LAW

The state investment fund is managed by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) and is used as an investment pool for portions of retirement trust assets and cash balances of the state's various funds. In addition, local governments can elect to invest their cash balances in the fund. SWIB states that the objective of the fund is to provide liquidity, safety of principal, and competitive rates of return. The fund is invested primarily in obligations of the US government and its agencies, and high quality commercial bank and corporate obligations. With current market interest rates at very low levels, in March, 2021, the state investment fund had an annualized rate of return of 0.06%.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The annualized rate of return of the state investment fund has mirrored the decline in market interest rates. In July, 2019, the annualized rate of return was 2.385%, but the rate of return fell significantly in the spring of 2020 and by June, 2020, the annualized rate of return was 0.147%. With current market interest rates at very low levels, in April, 2021, the state investment fund had an annualized rate of return of 0.058%.

2. UW System program revenue balances are considered part of the state's general fund, but retain interest earnings on their cash balances. (In this context, general fund refers to GPR, PR, and FED balances that are all considered part of the general fund for cashflow purposes). These UW System PR balances are invested as part of the state investment fund and in April, 2021, earned approximately \$69,000. In contrast, with the higher earning rates (2.39%) realized in July, 2019, the UW System PR balances at that time earned approximately \$2.8 million.

3. Under the Governor's 2021-23 budget proposal, the UW System would be authorized to manage the investment of any revenues by directing SWIB to invest these moneys according to investment policies established by the Board of Regents. Staff from the UW System indicate that this investment option could be used for approximately \$350 to \$400 million to increase the rate of return on their cash balances. The potential earnings would depend on the mix of assets, which is not known. An investment allocation plan would need to be developed and may include various fixed income funds, bank loans, and global equities.

4. The UW System's PR balances that are held in the state investment fund are reported as part of the state's general fund cash balance in the State Controller's monthly financial condition report, with an endnote indicating this practice. If a portion of these PR balances are transferred from the state investment fund to another investment account managed by SWIB, then the state's cashflow reports would reflect the lesser PR balance amount. However, in April of 2021 the state's cash position exceeded \$2.6 billion, attributable to the current large GPR balance and the receipt of federal moneys, so, at present, a potential reduction in the amount of these PR balances held in the state investment fund may not be a significant concern.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Specify that the Board of Regents could manage the investment of any revenues designated by the Board of Regents, including revenues from gifts, grants, and donations, by directing SWIB to invest these moneys according to investment policies established by the Board. Require SWIB to invest moneys designated by the Board under the Board's investment policies and in accordance with the contract, except that SWIB may decline to follow any investment policy or directive that involves unreasonable risk or that would be in violation of SWIB's standard of responsibility.

2. Take no action.

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #638

Student Mental and Behavioral Health Support (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 607, #8]

CURRENT LAW

The UW System offers student counseling services at each campus, including a range of programs and services by licensed behavior health clinicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, case managers, and nurses. The goal of these providers is to offer a safe and confidential environment to help students be successful.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In its agency budget submission for the 2021-23 biennium, the UW System requested \$2.5 million GPR in 2021-22 and \$7.5 million GPR in 2022-23 to provide additional or improved student health services related to mental and behavioral health, including additional staffing, training, operations, assessment, and prevention. This level of funding would be provided in the Governor's 2021-23 budget recommendations.

2. According to an April, 2019, presentation on student behavioral and mental health by UW System faculty, students are reporting increased behavioral health issues and seeking help in record numbers; anxiety and depression are the most common student behavioral health concerns and are increasing and suicide is also on the rise; and behavioral health issues significantly impact the academic success and retention of students. The 2019-20 UW Counseling Impact Assessment Report (CIAR) cites data from the Center for Collegiate Mental Health from 2016 stating that counseling centers nationwide experienced a 30 to 40% increase in counseling utilization between 2009 and 2015. UW System counseling centers experienced a 41% increase during that time period despite relatively flat enrollment, according to the April, 2019, Board of Regents presentation. From 2015-16 to 2019-20, UW System counseling utilization increased by an additional 15%, according to the 2019-20 UW CIAR. The report notes that utilization decreased slightly in 2019-20,

likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic when students left campus during the spring semester and there was a small pause while counseling centers pivoted to providing counseling via telehealth services.

3. Counseling utilization has risen by over 60% since 2010, according to UW System, which System notes outpaced enrollment significantly. This has resulted in longer wait times at counseling centers and a reduced level of service for students. As demand for counseling has risen, the ratio of available counselors to students remains below the recommended level at many of the 13 UW System institutions. International Association of Counseling Services (IACS) Standards for University and College Counseling Services recommend minimum staffing ratios in the range of one FTE professional staff member (excluding trainees) for every 1,000 to 1,500 students, depending on services offered and other campus mental health agencies. As shown in the table, while most institutions have improved their counselor to student ratio from 2015 to 2019, with eight institutions where data was presented now meeting the 1:1,500 ratio, only two of the campuses currently meet the 1:1,000 ratio.

Ratio of Counselors to Students by Institution 2015 to 2019

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Eau Claire	1,599	1,526	1,312	1,544	1,100
La Crosse	1,706	1,573	1,566	1,568	1,229
Madison	1,636	981	951	830	708
Milwaukee	2,952	2,252	2,187	2,134	1,991
Oshkosh	1,441	1,356	1,349	1,403	1,105
Parkside	2,224	2,138	2,084	2,045	2,150
Platteville	2,543	2,177	1,739	1,616	1,474
River Falls	1,554	1,598	1,595	1,344	1,291
Stevens Point	1,434	1,443	1,212	1,145	1,512
Stout	1,558	1,697	1,364	1,270	949
Superior	1,321	1,577	947	918	1,339
Whitewater	1,737	1,626	1,855	1,558	1,751

Source: UW Counseling Impact Assessment Report 2019-20

4. According to UW System, of the \$10 million requested over the 2021-23 biennium, \$5.4 million of the annual funding would be utilized for salary and fringe benefits to fund 47 counselor positions across UW System to help each institution meet the 1:1,000 ratio standard. These positions would fill staffing gaps in the ability to serve under-represented and higher-risk student populations and staff skilled in providing campus outreach and education on mental health and well-being. According to UW System, providing this funding for counselors would increase student access, decrease wait-times, and improve overall quality of student care.

5. In addition to counseling utilization increases, campus health centers have also experienced increased demand for behavioral health services. According to the April, 2019, presentation to the Board of Regents, student behavioral health issues account for almost one-half of visits to a UW health services center. The presentation also noted that due to limited access to

psychiatric services, students are increasingly relying on health services for support. UW System indicates that \$3.45 million of the \$10 million in the 2021-23 biennium would be utilized to increase psychiatric staffing at UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee, where psychiatric practitioners are available, as well as contract with a national telepsychiatry organization to provide remote psychiatric services for the other 11 institutions. According to UW System, increasing student access to psychiatric care would ensure students with more complex mental health needs receive the highest quality medical interventions and appropriate medication management and reduce the workload placed on primary care providers.

6. In addition to increased counseling and psychiatric staff, UW System indicates \$900,000 of the proposed funding would be utilized to provide additional case manager staff to ensure one case manager for each institution. Higher education case managers coordinate intervention and support efforts across campus and community systems to assist at-risk students, those who are facing crises, experiencing life stressors, and encountering barriers that impede success. Campus case managers triage reports of student concern from faculty, staff, students, and the outside community, manage crises, help concerned others to respond, refer students to on- and off-campus treatment resources, and monitor the impact of interventions on student success. According to UW System, providing additional case managers would increase campuses' ability to intervene early in high-risk situations, thereby reducing risks to the safety of an at-risk student to themselves and others.

7. UW indicates the remaining \$250,000 in proposed funding would be used for suicide prevention training and behavioral health grants. Approximately \$200,000 would be used to fund evidence-based suicide awareness/prevention training available online to all students, faculty, and staff. The final \$50,000 of proposed funding would be utilized to create an annual fund for grants to support campus-level development of unique and targeted programs to address particular behavioral health issues to promote innovation and help identify new approaches that could be considered for implementation at other campuses.

8. If the Committee wishes to provide additional funding for student behavioral and mental health, but at a lower level, \$7.65 million GPR in the 2021-23 biennium would fund 26.5 counselor positions and other related services, which would attain an estimated 1:1,250 counselor to student ratio. Alternatively, \$6.0 million GPR would fund 12.0 counselor positions and other related services, which would result in an estimated 1:1,500 counselor to student ratio.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$2,500,000 in 2021-22 and \$7,500,000 in 2022-23 in a new, annual appropriation to provide additional or improved student health services related to mental and behavioral health, including additional or improved staffing, training, operations, assessment, and prevention.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$10,000,000

2. Provide \$2,000,000 in 2021-22 and \$5,650,000 in 2022-23 for increased student mental and behavioral health services, which would fund 26.5 counselor positions and related services consistent with a 1:1,250 counselor to student ratio.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$7,650,000

3. Provide \$2,000,000 in 2021-22 and \$4,000,000 in 2022-23 for increased mental and behavioral health services, which would fund 12 counselor positions and related services consistent with a 1:1,500 counselor to student ratio.

ALT 3	Change to Base
GPR	\$6,000,000

4. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #639

Freshwater Collaborative (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 608, #9]

CURRENT LAW

The Freshwater Collaborative is a partnership between the 13 UW-System public universities, connecting students and faculty with industry partners, local communities, policymakers, non-profit organizations, and advocacy groups. The Collaborative's mission is to train the next generation of water researchers and problem solvers and to establish Wisconsin as a global leader in water-related science, technology, and economic growth.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The UW System in its 2021-23 agency budget submission requested \$3,000,000 GPR in 2021-22 and \$6,000,000 GPR in 2022-23 in a new, continuing appropriation to provide funding for a systemwide freshwater collaborative. The 2021-23 biennial budget recommendations of the Governor would provide this requested funding.
2. In June, 2019, UW System announced the formation of the Freshwater Collaborative of Wisconsin (FCW). A primary focus of the Collaborative is fostering collaborative research and initiatives across the 13 campuses, private sector, and state institutions to address significant modern water challenges including an initial focus on the challenges of agricultural water management, water quality and safety, and emerging contaminants. In August, 2019, the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation awarded \$670,000 to FCW, and UW System pledged \$1.4 million in funding as seed money for the initial phase of the Collaborative. In addition, each campus provided staff time to create a steering committee for the Collaborative to work on planning and programming, with UW-Milwaukee serving as the lead institution.
3. Of the initial \$2.07 million, the FCW allocated \$1.06 million for research along five

tracks: research collaboration summits/working groups (\$60,000); strategic research (\$500,000); undergraduate interdisciplinary curriculum, training, and course development and design (\$240,000); freshwater research experience for undergraduate awards (\$160,000); and inter-institutional undergraduate training programs (\$100,000). A list of these projects is shown in the attachment. The remaining funding was utilized for staff and operational costs. The request for proposals (RFP) for research funds specifies that any institution within the UW System may submit proposals and collaborations with UW-Madison or UW-Milwaukee must include one or more of the comprehensive institutions.

4. According to UW System, the \$9 million provided under the Governor's proposal is viewed as the first phase of a three-biennia, \$27 million total investment. Approximately 50% of funding would be utilized for faculty and staff support. The initial \$3 million provided in fiscal year 2021-22 would allow institutions and central administration to set up and begin initial hiring of 26 new faculty and 13 support staff in the first two years. These staff would be expected to bring in research grant dollars to provide an immediate return on investment.

5. Approximately 40% of funds would be utilized for student support through scholarships, fellowships, and internships, including hands-on field and lab opportunities to prepare students for future careers. The FCW would create an array of collaborative cross-institution programs that would be degree-granting at each institution. For instance, there would be a FCW certificate at Eau Claire, a FCW major and minor at Milwaukee, and a FCW concentration at each institution. The pilot program funded with WEDC and UW System funds is currently developing the structure for these programs. For example, current proposals under consideration include requiring each institution collaborative programming to include, at a minimum, a FCW introductory level "101" course and secondary level "201" course, approximately eight credits of hands-on electives, and a capstone that bridges more than one institution. Working groups are in the process of determining the content and delivery of the FCW 101 course, the mechanics of cross-institution curriculum development and faculty sharing, and how to highlight these features to recruit students. Virtual and online courses would be key elements, combined with in-person coursework and experiences reflective of the strengths and geography of each institution. In addition, the FCW is currently organizing its internship program and plans to reach out to current and future industry collaborators across many sectors such as environmental research, environmental engineering, environmental restoration, marine construction, power and water, and public health.

6. The remaining 10% of funds would be used for institution programs and operations, the director's office, career services, and student orientation. UW System also plans to create and maintain marketing and recruitment efforts including communication with the Department of Public Instruction to encourage interest in water careers. An annual water conference is also planned.

7. Under this proposal, the Board of Regents would allocate FCW funding to each institution. Currently, each of the 13 institutions is working on a six-year plan to submit to the FCW steering committee. Allocation of the funds would likely be based on the submitted six-year plans with some flexibility to accommodate changes or developments.

8. It could be argued that the FCW would be beneficial to the state as a whole through

increased job opportunities, research dollars, and environmental and public health benefits and the \$9 million in GPR funding over the 2021-23 biennium should be provided. Citing a UW-Milwaukee analysis of workforce data, UW System points to a Wisconsin water workforce of more than 60,000. According to UW-System, two-thirds of this industry surveyed expressed a lack of qualified water employees, and stated that those hired required extensive training. UW System argues the FCW will meet this critical need creating more than 200 new jobs by 2025. Additionally, by 2025, the FCW plans to have 400 new undergraduate students studying water science generating approximately \$4 million in tuition, 150 new graduate research students, and 26 new faculty, researchers and water professionals involved.

9. On the other hand, it could be argued that if the FCW is a priority for the UW System, then UW System should provide some measure of additional funding for the program alongside state funds. If the proposed funding is not provided, UW System indicates there is presently no plan for system to continue funding for the FCW beyond the initial \$1.4 million committed to the FCW as a match to the WEDC grant. The Committee could consider providing a lesser amount over the biennium. In January 2020, an Assembly Speaker's taskforce recommended providing \$2 million in funding in fiscal year 2020-21 in a continuing appropriation for the freshwater collaborative. The resulting bill, 2019 AB 801, would have provided \$2 million a year in ongoing funding for the collaborative beginning in fiscal year 2020-21. Based on that proposal, the Committee could consider providing \$4 million in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$2 million in fiscal year 2022-23. This would provide the \$6 million that would have been provided from fiscal year 2020-21 through 2022-23 under 2019 AB 801, and would provide ongoing funding of \$2 million annually in a continuing appropriation. If UW System wants to reach a funding level of \$9 million over the 2021-23 biennium, they would need to provide the additional \$3 million through internal resources or secure other external funding sources.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$3,000,000 in 2021-22 and \$6,000,000 in 2022-23 in a new, continuing appropriation to provide funding for a systemwide freshwater collaborative. Require the Board of Regents to fund a freshwater collaborative and allocate funding from this appropriation to each institution for this purpose. Specify that freshwater collaborative funding be used to do the following: (a) devise new water-centric training programs focused on undergraduates; (b) provide scholarships and student support to retain and attract new talent; (c) amplify marketing and recruiting relating to Wisconsin's role in freshwater science, including branding Wisconsin as the "Silicon Valley of Water"; (d) enhance workforce development programming; and (e) recruit new faculty and staff to advance training programs, research, and innovation.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$9,000,000

2. Provide \$4,000,000 in 2021-22 and \$2,000,000 in 2022-23 in a new, continuing appropriation to provide funding for a systemwide freshwater collaborative. Require the Board of

Regents to fund a freshwater collaborative and allocate funding from this appropriation to each institution for this purpose. Specify that freshwater collaborative funding be used to do the following: (a) devise new water-centric training programs focused on undergraduates; (b) provide scholarships and student support to retain and attract new talent; (c) amplify marketing and recruiting relating to Wisconsin's role in freshwater science, including branding Wisconsin as the "Silicon Valley of Water"; (d) enhance workforce development programming; and (e) recruit new faculty and staff to advance training programs, research, and innovation.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$6,000,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Freshwater Collaborative Research Tracks and Initially Funded Research Projects

Research Collaboration Summits/Working Groups	\$60,000
Strategic Research	500,000
UW-Green Bay, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Platteville, and UW-Madison: Land application and the occurrence, fate, and mitigation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and nitrate	122,700
UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls: Mitigating Eutrophication Events: Understanding Controls on Phosphorus Contamination in Surface Water and Groundwater in Western Wisconsin	61,800
UW-Madison, UW-Platteville: Groundwater-forest interactions as guide for artificial groundwater recharge strategies to support agricultural and ecosystems in the Central Sands	73,300
UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison: Micro- and nano-plastics as vectors for the transport of organic contaminants in freshwater environments: influence of natural organic matter and plastic weathering	68,000
UW-Madison, UW-Superior, UW-Eau Claire: Microplastics- A multidisciplinary approach to the understanding of sources, transport, adsorption of POPs, and fate in St. Louis River Estuary and Western Lake Superior	113,300
UW-Oshkosh, UW-La Crosse: Microplastics in the Lake Winnebago and Upper Mississippi River systems and the implications for food webs and water treatment infrastructure	60,800
Undergraduate FCW Interdisciplinary curriculum, training, and course development and design	240,000
Freshwater Research Experience for Undergraduate Grants	160,000
UW-Green Bay, UW-Madison: Evaluation of Filter Media for Phosphorus Removal in Agricultural Runoff Treatment Systems	10,000
UW-La Crosse, UW-Whitewater: Examining the Neurobehavioral Toxicity of the Emerging Contaminant Imidacloprid	9,000
UW-Whitewater, UW-La Crosse: Effects of a Mixture of Two Neonicotinoid Insecticides on Survival and Growth of Gammarus Pseudolimnaeus Amphipods	9,500
UW-Eau Claire, UW-Milwaukee: Creating and characterizing a zebrafish knockout line for studying methylmercury metabolism	10,000
UW-Platteville, UW-Madison: Comparative Wisconsin Freshwater Mussel Assessment: An Undergraduate Research Initiative	10,000
UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls: An Evaluation of Phosphorus Loading through Lacustrine Groundwater Discharge in Lake Altoona, Eau Claire County	10,000
UW-Platteville, UW-Green Bay: Evaluation of Filter Media Sorption Kinetics and Flow through Performance for Phosphorus Removal in Agricultural Runoff Treatment Systems	5,000
UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee: Leachability and plant-availability of phosphorus sorbed to agricultural runoff filter media	5,000
Inter-Institutional Undergraduate Training Programs	100,000
UW-Oshkosh: Surface and well water field sampling and lab analysis experience	<u>25,000</u>
Total	\$1,060,000



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #640

Nurse Educators (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 608, #11]

CURRENT LAW

The UW System has schools or colleges of nursing that offer nursing bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees at UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Eau Claire, and UW-Oshkosh. UW-Green Bay also offers a nursing program through its College of Health, Education, and Social Welfare.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The 2019-21 budget bill as introduced, would have provided GPR funding for a nurse educators program. No such funding was included in the 2019-21 budget act, but the 2021-23 budget proposed by the Governor would provide \$5,000,000 GPR in 2022-23 in a new, continuing appropriation for a nurse educators program. Under the Governor's proposal, the Board of Regents would be required to establish a nurse educator program that provides: (a) fellowships to students who enroll in programs for degrees in doctor of nursing practice or doctor of philosophy in nursing; (b) educational loan repayment assistance to recruit and retain faculty for system nursing programs; and (c) postdoctoral fellowships to recruit faculty for system nursing programs. The program would require individuals who receive fellowships or loan repayment assistance under the program to make a commitment to teach for three consecutive years in a UW-System nursing program.

2. In recent years, concern has been expressed about a growing shortage of qualified nurses in Wisconsin and in the country as a whole. As the population ages, demand for nursing and other health care services increases. Enrollment in baccalaureate nursing programs has grown in recent years; by 5.1% in 2019 according to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. The increased visibility of the nursing profession during the COVID-19 pandemic may have contributed to a greater recent boost in enrollment. At the same time, many nurses are themselves aging and retiring from the

profession, and the number of new nurses entering the field may not be sufficient to both replace those who are retiring and meet increased demand. According to the Wisconsin 2020 registered nurse (RN) workforce survey, 31.9% of current nurses are age 55 and older, and the median age reported for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) in the 2019 LPN workforce survey was 47.7.

3. Educational requirements for nurses vary from LPN programs, which typically can be completed in about one year, to advanced degrees including doctoral programs, which may be required for nurses who want to work as advanced specialists, conduct research, or hold management positions. Typically, an advanced degree is necessary for faculty at nursing schools. Data from the Wisconsin Center for Nursing "2018 Wisconsin Nursing Education and Nurse Faculty Survey Report" indicates that the majority of nursing faculty hold a master's degree (62.4%) with an additional 13% holding a doctorate of nursing practice (DNP), and 14% holding a PhD in Nursing. The survey noted that compared to 2015, the total number of PhD faculty has declined, while the number of nurse faculty holding a DNP has risen. Four UW institutions (Green Bay, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, and Oshkosh) offer advanced degree programs for nurses.

4. The current nursing shortage is reflected in nursing educator programs as well; in fact, nursing educator shortages may contribute to reduced nursing student capacity. The 2018 nurse faculty survey found that lack of funding to hire faculty was identified most often by bachelors of science in nursing (BSN) program administrators as a factor in limiting (nursing student) admissions. The survey report identified 63 vacant positions for full- and part-time faculty at nursing programs in Wisconsin, and notes that the number of part-time faculty has doubled since 2015. The population of nursing educators is aging, and many educators are nearing retirement; the survey indicates that 47.7% of registered nurses working in nursing education programs are age 51 or older. Addressing a shortage of nursing faculty requires planning in advance because of the time required to earn an advanced degree. A doctoral program typically takes four to seven years to complete, and nurses often practice for a period of time before pursuing graduate education.

5. Under 2013 Act 20, the Board of Regents was required to allocate \$11.25 million of program revenue in each year of the 2013-15 biennium for incentive grants related to educational programs in high-demand fields. One such incentive grant was awarded to the UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, and UW-Oshkosh nursing programs, to expand the state's nursing education capacity. Grant funding totaled \$3.2 million over three years for three types of fellowship awards: (a) pre-doctoral fellowships to accelerate the completion of a doctoral program; (b) post-doctoral fellowships to attract qualified faculty to UW System institutions; and (c) a loan repayment program to attract and retain new faculty. Under the grant, pre- and post-doctoral fellowship awards were granted ranging from \$21,500 to \$90,000, and awards of up to \$50,000 were granted under the loan repayment program. To be eligible for the funds, fellows and faculty had to commit to teach in a UW System nursing program for at least three years. The program awarded funds to 54 participants, including 19 at UW-Eau Claire, 13 at UW-Oshkosh, and 11 at each of UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee.

6. If \$5 million in 2022-23 would be provided in a continuing appropriation for nurse educators, this would provide ongoing funding going into the 2023-25 biennium. The funding would be used for a program similar to the grants funded by the incentive grant program. Grants would be

provided for the following: (a) fellowships to students who enroll in programs for degrees in doctor of nursing practice or doctor of philosophy in nursing; (b) post-doctoral fellowships to recruit faculty for System nursing programs; and (c) educational loan repayment assistance for faculty in System nursing programs. Recipients would be required to make a commitment to teach for three consecutive years in a UW-System nursing program.

7. As the registered nursing (RN) workforce is expected to grow nationally from 3.0 million in 2019 to 3.3 million in 2029 (an increase of 10%) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Employment Projections 2019-2029, it could be argued that increasing capacity for nursing educators is important over the long term, and ongoing funding should be provided. However, if the Committee wished to provide funding on a one-time basis, \$5 million could be provided in fiscal year 2021-22, the first year of the biennium. [Alternative 2]

8. Lack of competitive salary may be a factor in diminishing numbers of nursing educators, as a career in nursing education offers a lower salary compared to other nursing positions requiring a master's or doctoral degree. Data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that in Wisconsin, the average salary for a nurse educator was \$83,520 in 2020, while the average salary for a nurse anesthetist totaled \$231,520, for a nurse midwife totaled \$110,380, and for a nurse practitioner totaled \$113,030 in that year. Funding for fellowships for nursing graduate students and loan repayment assistance could help provide an incentive for graduates to choose nursing education as a career, rather than a career with a higher average salary.

9. A proposal that would provide funding to support an increase in the number of nurse educators was developed by a coalition of nursing school deans prior to the start of the 2019-21 biennial budget process. The proposal was substantially similar to the program that would be created under the Governor's proposal, but would have included more institutions, including private, non-profit colleges and Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) institutions. At the time, the coalition estimated that \$10 million could fund approximately 150 fellowships for nursing students pursuing a master's or doctorate degree in nursing, with fellowships accounting for approximately \$5.5 million of the request. Presumably, providing funding of \$5 million, instead of the \$10 million proposed in 2019-21, could support approximately 75 fellowships for approximately \$2.75 million of funding. Based on a budget document prepared by the coalition, it is estimated that 50% of fellowship award funding could go to students attending UW System institutions and 50% could go to students attending private institutions. Adjusting for total funding of \$5 million, \$1.85 million could be used for loan forgiveness for an estimated 60 new nursing school faculty. Of the remainder, \$0.1 million could be used for educational conferences and \$0.3 million could be used for administrative support, such as marketing the program to potential faculty members.

10. The Committee may wish to specify that any funding provided for nurse educators apply to more institutions, consistent with the request made by nursing school deans as described above. Under this approach, fellowships could be awarded to students pursuing a master's degree in nursing, a doctorate of nursing practice, or a PhD in nursing from a UW System institution or one of the seven private, non-profit colleges offering those degrees in Wisconsin. Fellowship recipients could complete their three-year teaching commitment at a UW System institution, a private non-profit college in Wisconsin, or a WTCS institution. The loan forgiveness program could also be extended

to new faculty hires at any private, non-profit college located in Wisconsin, in addition to UW System institutions. The program would be administered by the UW System, but the Committee could specify that no more than 50% of the fellowship award funding could be granted to individuals attending a UW institution, and no more than 50% of loan forgiveness funding could be awarded to faculty at UW institutions. Additionally, the UW System could be required to collaborate with the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) and an implementation council formed by the coalition of nursing school deans, which contains representatives of public and private institutions offering master's, PhD, and doctorate of nursing practice degrees. [Alternative 3]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$5,000,000 in 2022-23 in a new continuing appropriation for nurse educators.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$5,000,000

2. Provide \$5,000,000 in 2021-22 in a new continuing appropriation for nurse educators.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$5,000,000

3. In addition to Alternative 1 or Alternative 2, specify that the nurse educator program would apply to students and graduates of private, non-profit colleges located in Wisconsin, in addition to UW System institutions. Also specify that recipients could complete the three-year teaching obligation at a private, non-profit college located in Wisconsin or a WTCS institution, in addition to a UW System institution. Specify that no more than 50% of the fellowship award funding could be granted to individuals attending a UW System institution, and no more than 50% of loan forgiveness funding could be awarded to faculty at UW System institutions. Require UW System to collaborate with WAICU and a coalition of nursing school administrators in awarding the grants.

4. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #641

UW-Extension Cooperative County Agriculture Agents (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 609, #13]

CURRENT LAW

The UW-Madison Division of Extension provides educational programs related to agriculture, natural resources, geological and natural history, community and economic development, and other topics, through an office located in every county in the state. The agriculture and natural resources program uses University research and knowledge to address community agricultural and natural resources needs.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would provide \$500,000 GPR in 2021-22 and \$1,500,000 GPR in 2022-23 in the UW System's general operations appropriation. The Board of Regents would be required to provide funding from that appropriation for 20.0 agriculture-focused positions at UW-Madison, including 15.0 county-based agriculture agent positions, 3.0 research positions focusing on applied agriculture research, and 2.0 positions focusing on agriculture and climate change. These positions would be required to be filled using existing authorized positions that are currently vacant in a manner that reflects an increase in the total number of agricultural agent positions and agriculture-related research positions at UW-Madison. Specify that the Chancellor of UW-Madison may not abolish these positions under current law authorizing the creation and deletion of positions.

2. In November, 2017, the Board of Regents approved a proposal to restructure UW Colleges and UW-Extension. Divisions of the UW-Extension were allocated to UW-Madison and the UW System. The Division formerly known as Cooperative Extension, which provides direct outreach to local communities, became part of UW-Madison's newly-created Division of Extension, effective July 1, 2018. As a result, funding for the Division of Extension from the University's single GPR appropriation is part of the UW System's internal budget allocation for UW-Madison.

3. The Division of Extension provides outreach from the University to local citizens and communities, with institutes focusing on agriculture, community development, health and well-being, human development and relationships, natural resources, and positive youth development. As part of the agriculture institute, educators work in local communities through activities such as working directly with farmers and other agricultural producers, speaking to civic groups and county boards, facilitating meetings, and providing information publicly through newspapers, radio, or television programs. Educators provide information on topics including safe and healthy agricultural practices, farm profitability, farm succession and planning, using resources in a sustainable way, and best practices for growing various crops.

4. Under 2015 Act 55, the UW System's GPR general program operations appropriation was reduced by \$125 million GPR annually, with \$100 million GPR of that reduction ongoing. Extension funding was reduced by \$4.6 million in 2015-16 compared to 2014-15. During the 2019-21 biennium, UW System required Division of Extension to contribute \$1.7 million GPR for the Department of Administration's required \$86 million UW System lapses.

5. In 2021-22, the Division of Extension's budget totals approximately \$63.2 million, with funding sources including state, federal, and local dollars, as well as gifts and grants. Of that amount, \$53 million is used for salary, wages, and fringe benefits for staff located on UW campuses and in local county offices.

6. The Division of Extension budgeted \$3.5 million for salaries for agriculture agents and educators in 2020-21, using a combination of state and federal funds. (Another \$6.7 million is allocated for agriculture-related integrated specialists, who are located on a UW campus and may conduct research and teaching in the area of agriculture, in addition to outreach applying that research directly to local communities.) Counties also provide a portion of the funding for county-based educators, equal to approximately 41% of total funding for educators.

7. As of April, 2021, 52.14 full-time equivalent (FTE) agricultural educators are working in 56 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The Division of Extension director noted that there has been a hiring freeze for the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some educators work part-time in more than one county; in those cases, the county portion of the funding is split between counties. Extension staff indicate that currently, there is not sufficient funding in the budget to provide an agricultural agent or educator in every county.

8. Of the 20 required reallocated vacant positions, 15 would be county agriculture educator positions, and the remaining five would be research positions. The UW Extension Director indicates the five researchers would be located at UW-Madison and would conduct research, direct programming to constituents, and support county educators and their programming across the state. Three of the positions would be integrated extension faculty specialists in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and two would be statewide specialists in the Division of Extension. According to the Division of Extension Director, it would take at least six months to recruit employees to fill these positions and Extension would plan to reallocate some federal funding under the Smith Lever Act to make up for any shortfalls in funding for the positions.

9. The Governor's proposal would create a number of statutory requirements for the Board

of Regents and UW-Madison Chancellor. If the goal is to ensure this funding is used for the Division of Extension, creating a separate GPR appropriation for this purpose and transferring 20.0 vacant GPR positions from the UW System's general program operations appropriation would provide a clear way to track this funding.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$500,000 in 2021-22 and \$1,500,000 in 2022-23 in the UW System's general operations appropriation. Require the Board of Regents to provide funding from that appropriation for 20.0 agriculture-focused positions at UW-Madison, including 15.0 county-based agriculture agent positions, 3.0 research positions focusing on applied agriculture research, and 2.0 positions focusing on agriculture and climate change. These positions would be required to be filled using existing authorized positions that are currently vacant in a manner that reflects an increase in the total number of agricultural agent positions and agriculture-related research positions at UW-Madison. Specify that the Chancellor of UW-Madison may not abolish these positions under current law authorizing the creation and deletion of positions.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$2,000,000

2. Provide \$500,000 in 2021-22 and \$1,500,000 in 2022-23 in a new biennial appropriation for agriculture-focused positions in the Division of Extension at UW Madison and transfer 20.0 positions from the UW System's general program operations appropriation to this new appropriation.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$2,000,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #642

Foster Youth Programs (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 609, #14]

CURRENT LAW

Currently, UW Eau Claire, UW-Green Bay, UW-Milwaukee, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout and UW-Whitewater offer "Fostering Success" programs which provide guidance and resources for youth who have been in foster care, homeless, or orphaned and who have an interest in pursuing higher education. The programs inform students about available grants and scholarships as well as provide supplemental advising about courses and connect students to available resources, including housing, food, clothing, transportation, health and wellness, and employment.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would provide \$500,000 GPR annually in a new, annual appropriation for foster youth support programs. The Board of Regents would be required to allocate funding from this appropriation to each institution to establish or maintain support programs for students enrolled in the institution who formerly resided in a foster home or group home. The types of programs supported by these funds may include any of the following: (a) scholarships; (b) employment; (c) emergency funds; (d) basic supplies; (e) mentorships to assist with academic preparations and successful navigation of the complex college environment; or (f) other resources such as career planning, financial literacy training, and math and writing support.

2. While many states have tuition-waiver programs that allow foster youth to attend public institutions at no charge or for significantly reduced rates, there is no such program in Wisconsin, nor are there any state scholarships targeted specifically to students who were formerly in foster care. 2017 Assembly Bill 777 would have created a tuition remission program for foster care students at UW System and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). The bill would have required the Board of Regents and WTCS district boards to grant tuition remissions to students who had been

placed in foster care or other placements out of their parent's home. The bill would have provided \$410,000 GPR annually in a biennial appropriation to reimburse UW System and WTCS institutions for remissions. The bill passed the Assembly on a vote of 93 to 0, but failed to pass pursuant to 2017 Senate Joint Resolution 1.

3. Although Wisconsin does not offer state-funded tuition remission or scholarships directly targeted to students who were in foster care, the federal Chafee Education and Training Voucher (ETV) program, funded under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, provides vouchers for post-secondary education and training available to youths who have aged out of out-of-home care. Wisconsin received \$755,000 from the ETV program for federal fiscal year 2021. Youths may receive services funded under ETV if they meet state eligibility criteria for the independent living program and federal ETV eligibility requirements, which Department of Children and Family (DCF) staff note is a more limited population than all youth who have experienced foster care. A youth is eligible for the ETV program if he or she exited an out-of-home care or court-ordered kinship care placement at age 18 or went into court-ordered guardianship or was adopted after the age of 16. All ETV funds are awarded under the Brighter Star program through the transitional resource agencies.

4. Through federal fiscal year 2020, eligible youth receive up to \$5,000 per school year in ETV funds for financial aid for the costs of attending an accredited school for a four-year degree, two-year degree, technical diploma, apprenticeship, or professional certification. Funds may be available for up to five academic years. The awards may be used for the costs of attendance, including (but not limited to) tuition, fees, room and board, and transportation for youths who have been approved to attend a post-secondary education or vocational program. A student is eligible if he or she: (a) is at least 17.5 years old and is likely to remain in a court-ordered out-of-home care placement until the age of 18 (or older); (b) was adopted or entered guardianship under the Children's Code at the age of 16 or older following a court-ordered out-of-home care placement; or (c) is older than 18 but younger than 14 years of age and aged out of an out-of-home care placement. Beginning in federal fiscal year 2021, the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 increased the maximum ETV award amount from \$5,000 per youth per year to be up to \$12,000 per youth per year and raised the maximum age of eligibility to 26.

5. Research suggests a small percentage of individuals formerly in foster care attend post-secondary education and only a small percentage of those students receive degrees within five or six years. The Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago conducted a longitudinal study, the Midwest Study, of individuals who had formerly been in foster care in Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. At the beginning of the study, all of the individuals were 17 years old and had been in foster care for at least one year. The first round of interviews began in 2002 and subsequent interviews occurred when most of the respondents were 19, 21, 23 or 24, and 26. Chapin Hall released separate reports for each of the three states following the interviews that took place when the individuals formerly in foster care were 19 and 21. At age 19, 16.5% of individuals who had formerly been in foster care in Wisconsin were enrolled in a vocational training program or a two-year college while 6.7% were enrolled in a four-year college or university. At age 21, 10.8% were enrolled in a two-year college and 5.7% were enrolled in a four-year college or university. Data from all three states shows that 8.1% of respondents were enrolled in a two-year college and 4.2% were enrolled in a four-year college or university at age 23 or 24.

6. As the Chapin Center notes, while the ETV (Brighter Star) and tuition waiver programs in other states make postsecondary education more economically viable for young people aging out of foster care, they do not address nonfinancial needs. DOA budget staff indicate that the proposed funding was intended to be utilized for supporting and expanding the Fostering Success programs. The Fostering Success programs at several UW-System institutions support students who have been in foster care (and other students who have experienced homelessness or were orphaned) by focusing on recruitment, retention, and graduation. The initial program began at UW-Stout in the admissions office through a one-time grant in 2014 from DCF and continued in subsequent years primarily through private donations. As part of their Fostering Success program, UW-Stout provides information for other campuses interested in developing their own Fostering Success programs.

7. Funding for Fostering Success programs varies by campus. At UW-Stout, the program partners with the campus's student support services funded through federal TRIO grants, which provide academic support and services for first-generation students, students who meet federal low-income criteria, and students with disabilities. These services include financial literacy coaching, writing and math specialists, and tutoring. By partnering with the TRIO program, UW-Stout's director indicates the minimum annual Fostering Success program operating budget is approximately \$15,000. The program director indicates over 80% of program funds are utilized for activities that directly benefit students including scholarships, paid work positions within the program, emergency funds, and basic supplies (hygiene, clothes, food, and school supplies). Budgeted staff time by the Fostering Success Director and Support Services advisor together make up a 0.10 FTE position funded through UW-Stout through private donations to the Stout Foundation for Fostering Success. UW-Stout also provides GPR funding for a 0.05 FTE administrative support, and provides funding for the program through federal work-study funds and a graduate assistant position funded from program revenue (tuition) funds which the program applies for on an annual basis. Community grants and private donations provide the remaining program funding. If the program were not partnered with TRIO, the director estimates annual costs would be approximately \$100,000 annually.

8. At UW-Milwaukee, the program coordinator indicates that 25% of their position, which is funded through GPR, is allocated to the Fostering Success coordinator work, and that the program has no other dedicated budget and relies heavily on volunteers and donations. The coordinator is responsible for leading the Fostering Success at UWM Committee, a group of volunteers which includes faculty, alumni, and community members. They also coordinate student outreach to both prospective and current students through monthly emails, phone call campaigns, and college and career fairs. They also manage donation campaigns and apply for grants to support the program (the program receives grants and donations of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 annually). Similar to Stout, and depending on available donations, the UWM program provides academic and wellness supplies to students including welcome bags, book gift cards, and linens. There are several activities that UWM would like to provide through their program if they were to receive additional program funding, such as a one to two-night summer camp for high school students (a program UW-Stout currently offers through their program), foster care awareness month activities, scholarship funding, and peer mentors and professional in-depth coaches to help students navigate life transitions into college, throughout college, and post-graduation.

9. Given the timing of enactment of the state's budget, the funding amount in 2021-22 could be set at \$250,000 with the expectation that the proposed activities would begin in the second semester of the 2021-22 academic year. Under this approach, \$250,000 would be provided in 2021-22 and \$500,000 in 2022-23.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$500,000 annually in a new, annual appropriation for foster youth support programs. Require the Board of Regents to allocate funding from this appropriation to each institution to establish or maintain support programs for students enrolled in the institution who formerly resided in a foster home or group home. Specify that the types of programs supported by these funds may include any of the following: (a) scholarships; (b) employment; (c) emergency funds; (d) basic supplies; (e) mentorships to assist with academic preparations and successful navigation of the complex college environment; or (f) other resources such as career planning, financial literacy training, and math and writing support.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$1,000,000

2. Provide \$250,000 in 2021-22 and \$500,000 in 2022-23 in a new annual appropriation for foster youth support programs. Require the Board of Regents to allocate funding from this appropriation to each institution to establish or maintain support programs for students enrolled in the institution who formerly resided in a foster home or group home. Specify that the types of programs supported by these funds may include any of the following: (a) scholarships; (b) employment; (c) emergency funds; (d) basic supplies; (e) mentorships to assist with academic preparations and successful navigation of the complex college environment; or (f) other resources such as career planning, financial literacy training, and math and writing support.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$750,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #643

UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute Partnership (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 610, #15]

CURRENT LAW

UW-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) was established in 1967 and formally recognized by the Board of Regents in 1969. The LSRI's mission is to conduct environmental research and provide services that directly benefit the people, industries, and natural resources of the Upper Midwest, and the Great Lakes Region; provide non-traditional learning and applied research opportunities for undergraduate students; and foster environmental education and outreach in the Ports of Duluth and Superior and surrounding communities.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would provide \$402,500 GPR in 2021-22 and \$500,000 GPR in 2022-23 with 5.0 positions beginning in 2021-22 in a new, annual appropriation for a UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI) partnership program. The Board of Regents would be required to establish a partnership program between UW-Superior's LSRI and northern Wisconsin communities and fund costs for the program from this appropriation. The program would be designed to accomplish all of the following objectives: (a) remove barriers and provide easy access to research and testing services for homeowners and businesses; (b) provide follow-up assistance and recommendations to solve environmental issues; (c) secure external funding to solve environmental issues; (d) to develop highly visible outreach events; and (e) create a direct conduit to fully equipped laboratory space and scientific expertise and to fully integrate the institute as the applied-environmental research arm for the region. The program would be required to utilize permanent staff and student employees to coordinate directly with county health and conservation departments and with state, tribal, and local entities to develop regional priorities and solutions.

2. Currently, the LSRI has 20 academic staff, three limited-term employees, and seven

undergraduate students with expertise across academic fields including: analytical chemistry, aquatic invasive species monitoring and outreach, benthic and zooplankton taxonomy, habitat restoration, microbiology, sediment and aquatic toxicology, quality assurance and data management, watershed management and planning, and wetland assessment and monitoring. The LSRI's annual budget varies based on available funding, but for fiscal year 2020-21, LSRI's operating budget is \$1,558,900, of which University funds comprised \$297,100 (\$261,500 GPR and \$35,600 PR) which funded the LSRI director, assistant director, administrative program specialist, part-time office assistant and supplies. The remaining \$1,261,800 covered other staff salary and fringe benefits and was supported by external funds (grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements).

3. Under the Governor's proposal, 5.0 positions would be provided for the LSRI partnership program. The 5.0 positions created under the proposal would include a Northern Wisconsin Environmental Health Program (NWEHP) Director who would develop the framework to create a conduit to fully equipped laboratory space and scientific expertise to facilitate integrating the Institute as the applied-environmental research arm for northern Wisconsin communities. This position would direct all program activities, seek outside funding, and manage the budget for the NWEHP, provide staff leadership, and coordinate with the LSRI director. Three of the newly created positions would have grant-writing responsibilities including: (a) a NWEHP conservation coordinator who would coordinate with conservation departments and conservation stakeholders to develop regional priorities and solutions; (b) a NWEHP laboratory coordinator who would coordinate with health department and businesses to develop regional priorities and solutions and remove barriers to access to research and testing services; and (c) a NWEHP education coordinator who would coordinate all outreach and education needs associated with the NWEHP. The fifth position would be a NWEHP laboratory technician who would conduct laboratory testing to meet the needs of the NWEHP as well as provide customer service to the community.

4. Depending on available funding, services provided by the LSRI currently include: chemical analysis of environmental samples from water, sediment, plankton, fish, and invertebrates including metal analyses, inorganic chemical analyses, measurements of acid volatile sulfides and simultaneously extracted metals, total and dissolved organic carbon, and grain size for sediment samples; E. coli certification; data management, data processing, and data distribution services; field sampling; geographic information systems - including spatial analyses of population distribution data, GIS integration and geo-spatial data collection and interpretation; quality assurance/quality/control program; taxonomy and collection of biological samples; and toxicity testing. The LSRI runs the only state laboratory certified in northwestern Wisconsin for analyzing nitrate, nitrite, and fluoride in drinking water. LSRI staff indicate the LSRI currently analyzes public and business drinking water samples for compliance monitoring of nitrate and nitrite for Douglas County, which the Institute reports to DNR. In the past, staff indicate the LSRI has also conducted water tests for metals and E. coli or total coliform at homeowners' requests. However, metal analyses cost from \$15 to \$20 per sample per metal while nitrate, nitrite, and fluoride analysis cost \$25 per sample, and Institute staff indicate the demand for homeowner water testing exceeds available supplies and funding. Supplies funding provided under the Governor's proposal would provide increased funds for scientific instrumentation, training, and testing supplies.

5. While LSRI has the testing capacity and expertise to be a continued presence in the

region, LSRI staff indicate that the Institute's current reliance on grant funding limits its ability to consistently share its resources with the community. The funding provided under the Governor's proposal would allow LSRI to hire permanent staff who would work directly with county health and conservation departments, state, tribal, and local entities. Providing consistent funding could allow for more ongoing collaborations among community and regional partners.

6. Funding provided under the proposal would also improve accessibility of research and testing, provide long-term assistance on environmental issues and create outreach events to maximize community engagement. For example, using a project grant of \$56,000, LSRI developed, promoted and implemented a pilot study to test 700 privately-owned wells for fluoride concentration and an additional 111 well samples for metals (arsenic, iron, manganese, aluminum, and lead). The intended audience for this community outreach event included homeowners living in 11 northwest Wisconsin counties (Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas, Iron, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn). Homeowners were trained in sample collection and the LSRI provided sample bottle pickups at participating rural health clinics and large community events including county fairs. According to LSRI staff, the project was successful in raising awareness about the need for annual drinking water testing, provided individual homeowners with data about their wells, and provided health officials with a baseline dataset to inform future public health decisions.

7. If the Committee wishes to expand LSRI activities but at a lesser cost, it could provide \$241,500 GPR in 2021-22 and \$300,000 GPR in 2022-23 and 3.0 GPR positions beginning in 2021-22. This would allow LSRI to begin the proposed partnership program with a lesser level of resources, which could be augmented in a subsequent budget request as needed. This funding could be provided in a new appropriation but without specifying the list of activities associated with the higher funding level.

8. If the Committee takes no action on this item, LSRI would not expand its activities as proposed, but could continue operations using base GPR resources and external funds such as grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$402,500 in 2021-22 and \$500,000 in 2022-23 with 5.0 positions beginning in 2021-22 in a new, annual appropriation for a UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute partnership program. Require the Board of Regents to establish a partnership program between UW-Superior's Lake Superior Research Institute and northern Wisconsin communities and fund costs for the program from this appropriation. Specify that the program would be designed to accomplish all of the following objectives: (a) remove barriers and provide easy access to research and testing services for homeowners and businesses; (b) provide follow-up assistance and recommendations to solve environmental issues; (c) secure external funding to solve environmental issues; (d) to develop highly visible outreach events; and (e) create a direct conduit to fully equipped laboratory space and scientific expertise and to fully integrate the institute as the applied-environmental research arm for the region. Require the program to utilize permanent staff and student employees to coordinate directly with county health and conservation departments and with state, tribal, and local entities to develop regional priorities and solutions.

ALT 1	Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$902,500	5.00

2. Provide \$241,500 in 2021-22 and \$300,000 in 2022-23 with 3.0 positions beginning in 2021-22 in a new, annual appropriation for a UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute partnership program.

ALT 2	Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions
GPR	\$541,500	3.00

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #644

UW-Madison UniverCity Alliance Program (UW-System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 610, #16]

CURRENT LAW

The UniverCity Alliance program at UW Madison was created by the UW in 2015 to connect Wisconsin cities with education, service, and research activities across UW-Madison. The primary program UniverCity Year, involves a three-year partnership between UW-Madison faculty and students and Wisconsin communities to address community challenges.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor's proposal would provide \$300,000 each year in a new, annual appropriation for the UniverCity Alliance program. For fiscal year 2020-21, the Alliance's budget totaled approximately \$319,500 and was funded primarily by partner community contributions, gift funds (\$110,000), grants from the UW-Madison Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment (\$40,700) as well as in-kind staff support from UW-Madison faculty (\$36,300 for 0.5 position from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and 0.5 position from the College of Letters and Sciences). According to the UniverCity Alliance Director, current funding levels allow for 60 community projects annually; with UniverCity Year completing 68 projects across seven communities this year, including 50 projects from 2017 through 2020 in Green County. The additional funding provided under the proposal would allow the program to expand to approximately 100 projects across Wisconsin.

2. The UniverCity Year program, the Alliance's primary program, focuses on connecting UW-Madison faculty and staff around critical issues affecting Wisconsin cities (and other units of local government). Communities apply to partner with UniverCity Year for a three-year period. During the first year, the community partner identifies issues that could benefit from UW-Madison expertise. UniverCity Year staff then match those issues to UW-Madison faculty, staff, and graduate

students. The second year involves UW-Madison faculty, staff, and students conducting research through courses, independent projects, and internships. These faculty, staff, and students then provide big picture ideas and feasible recommendations to address the issues. In the third year, UniverCity Year staff support the community with resources to implement the projects. Local governments are required to make a contribution to the UniverCity Year program, generally consisting of \$20,000 to \$30,000 per issue area, with the program generally undertaking a minimum of five to seven projects per issue area. The UniverCity Alliance Director indicates this figure is negotiable and depends on the community's ability to pay. According to the Director, this is one area the proposed funding would assist with, allowing more communities to participate in the program even if they are more limited by budget constraints.

3. In the past, community partners have identified issues related to sustainability, economic development, education, health, housing, and social services, among others. For example, during 2018-2021, UW-Madison partnered with Pepin County to research key issues facing the county and its cities, towns, and villages. According to the Pepin County summary, local government leaders in Pepin County identified three overarching issues including economic development, education, and environmental sustainability, and 25 individual projects that could benefit from UW-Madison expertise. UW-Madison faculty and staff incorporated these projects into their courses and research programs and UniverCity Year staff provided administrative support for the partnership. The attachment shows the 25 projects and the associated department and course or independent project as applicable. For example, under the "economic development" issue umbrella, students in a UW-Madison computer science course developed a mobile phone application (app) for tourists to plan their visit to the Village of Pepin. Through the application, users can learn more about the businesses' history, building, hours, and contact information, and add places of interest to a custom walking map. Unless otherwise noted, courses were UW-Madison courses.

4. One could argue the UniverCity Alliance program, by utilizing (primarily) UW-Madison expertise to partner with Wisconsin communities to develop and implement solutions to community problems, is an example of the Wisconsin Idea, and beneficial to state as a whole. Providing additional funding for the program would allow more communities to partner with the program, potentially at a lower cost to these communities. If the Committee wishes to support the program, but at a lower cost, \$150,000 annually could be provided, which would provide funding for an additional 20 projects annually (Alternative 2).

5. Finally, given that the program has been funded since 2015 using other UW-Madison grant funds, gifts and local contributions, it will likely continue on some basis without the recommended GPR funding. Therefore, the Committee could decide to take no action on this item.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$300,000 a year in a new, annual appropriation for the UniverCity Alliance program.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$600,000

2. Provide \$150,000 annually in a new annual appropriation for the UniverCity Alliance program.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$300,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst
Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Pepin County UniverCity Year Projects 2018-2021

Project Name

Economic Development

Community Branding for Durand
Economic Analysis and Business Development Strategies for Pepin County
Downtown Revitalization and Redevelopment Plan for Durand
Economic Development Guidebook for Pepin County
Historic Walking App for the Village of Pepin
Industrial Park designs for Durand
Tourism Marketing Plans for Pepin County
Economic Benchmarking Analysis of Pepin County Assets
Updating Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Pepin

Education

Best Practices for Analyzing School Data
Economic Impact of the Durand-Arkansaw School District
Durand-Arkansaw School District Focus Group Results
Statistical Analysis of Wisconsin Forward Exam English and
Language Arts Scores
Statistical Analysis of Wisconsin Forward Exam Math Scores

Environmental Sustainability

Behavior Change Communication Campaign to Improve Water Quality

Best Practices for Managing GIS Data

Conservation Management Plan for Fall Creek Watershed
Feasibility Study of Composting Manure
Feasibility Study of Composting Yard Waste
Groundwater Quality Protection in Pepin County
Health Impact Assessment of Multi-hazards

Department: Course Name

UW Extension: Independent Research Project
UW Extension: Independent Research Project
Urban and Regional Planning: Planning Workshop
Urban and Regional Planning: Planning Workshop
Computer Science: Foundations of Mobile Systems and Applications
Civil and Environmental Engineering: Senior Capstone Design
Journalism: Creative Campaign Messages
UW Eau Claire Economics: Independent research project
UW River Falls Environmental Science and Management: Planning for
Sustainable Communities

Education: Independent Research Project
UW Extension: Independent Research Project
UW Extension: Independent Research Project

Statistics: Statistical Consulting
Statistics: Statistical Consulting

Life Sciences Communication and UW Extension: Independent research
project
Nelson Institute and State Cartographer's Office: Independent research
project
Environmental Studies: Conservation Planning
Civil Engineering: Environmental Sustainability Engineering
Civil Engineering: Environmental Sustainability Engineering
Environmental Studies: Environmental Monitoring Seminar
Environmental Studies: Health Impact Assessment of Global
Environmental Change

Project Name

Environmental Sustainability (continued)

Increasing Visitors to Holden Park in Pepin County

Stormwater Mitigation Plan for Village of Stockholm

Wastewater Treatment System Design for Village of Stockholm

Water Quality Data, Privacy, and Communication Strategies

Department: Course Name

Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture: Independent
graduate student research project

Civil and Environmental Engineering: Senior Capstone

Civil and Environmental Engineering: Senior Capstone

Environmental Studies: Environmental Studies Capstone



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May, 2021

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #645

Missing In Action Recovery and Identification Project (UW System)

[LFB 2021-23 Budget Summary: Page 610, #17]

CURRENT LAW

The UW MIA recovery and identification project (the MIA project) consists of a multidisciplinary team of researchers, students, veterans, alumni, and volunteers working on furthering the recovery and identification of missing-in-action American service members. Founded in 2015 at the UW-Madison Biotechnology Center, the project utilizes a team of UW-System faculty, staff, and student volunteers across multiple academic disciplines including archeology, forensic anthropology, history, business and operations management, archeology and biology (genetic analysis) to perform site surveys and assist in the discovery, careful exhumation, identification, and repatriation of remains. Recoveries are currently funded through in-kind contributions from base resources, volunteer work, and moneys for specific missions from the Department of Defense.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. In the 2019-20 Legislative session, Assembly Bill 452 and a companion bill, Senate Bill 446, would have provided \$180,000 GPR of annual funding for the MIA project. AB 452 was recommended for passage by the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities on a vote of 15-0. On January 21, 2020, SB 446 passed the Senate on a vote of 33-0. The Assembly amended the bill on February 20, 2020, and passed the bill, as amended, by a vote of 98-0. This bill, however, failed to be enacted pursuant to SJR 1.

2. The 2021-23 budget proposal would provide \$360,000 GPR in 2021-22 in a new, continuing appropriation for the MIA project. Under the proposal, the Board of Regents would be required to provide funding from this appropriation for the MIA project to perform a mission for the recovery and identification of Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action.

3. The UW MIA project partners with the U.S. Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the agency responsible for identifying and repatriating the remains of U.S. service members. The UW MIA project was the first academic institution to partner with DPAA. With the UW MIA project as a model, the DPAA now partners with over 50 academic and non-profit institutions for MIA identifications.

4. According to the project, there are over 82,000 missing-in-action American service members currently unaccounted for as a result of conflicts since the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941, including over 1,500 Wisconsin service members. The DPAA assigns missing-in-action recovery cases and provides informational and logistical support to aid in recovery efforts. During the academic year, the UW MIA project team conducts research about missing service members, uses mapping sites to identify possible locations, and contacts and interviews potential witnesses in order to find a site where the remains of an MIA service member may be located. The UW MIA project then sends field recovery teams to sites assigned by the DPAA during the summer field season. These recovery teams typically consist of 10 to 20 instructors and students, with about half of the team consisting of students. Multiple UW-System campuses have been involved in field missions including UW-Madison, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Milwaukee at Waukesha, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Oshkosh Fox Cities. Artifacts and human remains at search sites are turned over by the UW team to the federal police within that nation to have the remains transported to UW-Madison for forensic analysis and DNA testing. UW MIA project communicates with DPAA throughout the process and the honors and burial are performed and supported by DPAA.

5. Past field efforts have focused on the European theater of World War II. For example, in the summers of 2016 and 2017, the team led the successful recovery of First Lieutenant Frank Fazekas, a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilot who was shot down and killed in action on May 22nd, 1944, in France. 1LT. Fazekas was later buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery. In summer 2018, the team successfully recovered the remains of Second Lieutenant Walter B. Stone, a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter pilot who was shot down and killed in action on October 22nd, 1943, in France. 2LT Stone was buried in his hometown of Andalusia, Alabama, next to his family. In summer 2019, the team executed a recovery mission of a WWII American service member in Northern Europe, with efforts currently ongoing in 2021.

6. If \$360,000 of funding would be provided, the project would focus on expanding efforts to identify and recover missing Wisconsin service members, in addition to continuing their DPAA assigned work. This funding would cover the following: (a) recovery costs including a scientific recovery expert salary and fringe benefits, emergency medical coverage, scouting analysis, metal detection, field supplies and landowner compensation; (b) research costs including genealogist/archival expert salary and fringe benefits, historical research supplies, and travel and lodging costs; (c) project logistics including the team leader's salary and fringe costs; project assistant salary and fringe costs, student stipends, supplies, and travel and lodging costs; and (d) biological costs associated with testing recovered materials.

7. Providing funding in the first year of the biennium in a continuing appropriation would allow the UW MIA project to utilize any funds remaining in the appropriation at the end of

fiscal year 2021-22 in future years, but would not establish an ongoing base funding level for the program. An option would be to provide the same overall level of funding but with \$180,000 of funding in each year of the 2021-23 biennium.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Provide \$360,000 in 2021-22 in a new, continuing appropriation for the UW MIA recovery and identification project. Require the Board of Regents to provide funding from this appropriation for the MIA project to perform a mission for the recovery and identification of Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action. At the conclusion of the mission, require the MIA project, through its representative, to submit a report on the mission's findings and an accounting of expenditures for the mission to the Governor, Joint Committee on Finance, Board of Regents, the standing committees of each house of the Legislature dealing with veterans matters, and the Departments of Veteran's Affairs, Military Affairs.

ALT 1	Change to Base
GPR	\$360,000

2. Provide \$180,000 annually in a new, continuing appropriation for the UW MIA recovery and identification project. Require the Board of Regents to provide funding from this appropriation for the MIA project to perform a mission for the recovery and identification of Wisconsin veterans who are missing in action. At the conclusion of each year's mission, require the MIA project, through its representative, to submit a report on the mission's findings and an accounting of expenditures for the mission in that fiscal year to the Governor, Joint Committee on Finance, Board of Regents, the standing committees of each house of the Legislature dealing with veterans matters, and the Departments of Veteran's Affairs, Military Affairs.

ALT 2	Change to Base
GPR	\$360,000

3. Take no action.

Prepared by: Erin Probst

University of Wisconsin System

LFB Summary Items for Which No Issue Papers Have Been Prepared

<u>Item #</u>	<u>Title</u>
18	State Laboratory of Hygiene Rent
20	State Laboratory of Hygiene -- Soil Heath
21	Reestimate Tuition Revenues
22	UW-Stevens Point Institute for Sustainable Technology
23	Physician and Dental Loan Program