



A GROWTH AGENDA FOR WISCONSIN

GROWING PEOPLE, JOBS, & COMMUNITIES

UW-Madison: Graduate Education and Research Opportunities

Brief summary: This initiative will help UW-Madison attract high-quality graduate students in critical fields and maintain its ability to secure external research awards through organizations such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Why is it needed?

In 2006-07, UW-Madison generated \$724 million in extramural research awards, including prestigious federal awards such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Traineeships, the National Science Foundation pre-doctoral fellowships, and U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships. These fellowships are a growing source of graduate student support, and provide a critical source of funds for research conducted by UW faculty and graduate students. Graduate students are at the center of UW-Madison's research enterprise, and access to top-flight graduate students is an important component of faculty retention efforts. Recent policy changes for these fellowships, however, require an increased level of cost-sharing by universities, and it has become increasingly difficult for UW-Madison to meet the required match in order to secure these fellowships. This difficulty in providing matching funds has led to a decrease in research awards from 2004-05 to 2006-07, with extramural research awards decreasing from \$770 million to \$725 million. Similarly, federal research funding has decreased from \$580 million in 2004-05 to \$498 million in 2006-07. In addition, decreased participation in the NIH and FLAS, which will reduce funding to support both research efforts and graduate students, will result in UW-Madison having even greater difficulty in recruiting and retaining faculty.

How does this proposal meet the need?

The requested funds will be used to supplement the base resources that UW-Madison has already allocated toward the required institutional contribution for these grants. The funds will be managed centrally through the Graduate School, and trainee and fellowship programs will be required to use grant-awarded resources first, with the Graduate School providing a supplement for the unfunded portion of the associated graduate students' tuition, which can typically be used as part of the institutional matching requirement. This will allow UW-Madison to continue to apply for and receive competitive grant funding, undertake research in the sciences and other critical areas, and produce highly skilled advanced-degree graduates. Upon graduation, many of the students who benefit from these fellowships will look for opportunities in the local and state economy to continue their research, which provides a ready source of highly skilled employees for Wisconsin companies. Similarly, the research supported by these fellowships often leads to spin-off and start-up companies, some of which are started by these former graduate students, who typically locate near the university where they studied.

What are the outcomes/benefits?

- Retain 510 graduate students and the associated external funding;
- Support research efforts that stimulate new knowledge that can be the basis for creating new high-technology businesses;
- Support existing Wisconsin businesses through access to cutting-edge research and knowledge transfer.

Estimated ongoing cost: \$5.25 million GPR

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