

Veterans' Tuition Grant

**BUSINESS, FINANCE, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:**

Resolution:

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin was a leader in maximizing the benefits to World War II veterans under the federal G.I. Bill, and has for decades continued the state's commitment to providing opportunities for a higher education to veterans, their families, and students from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, the unified efforts and leadership of the state Legislature and the Governor made it possible to create, as part of the 2005-07 state biennial budget (2005 Wisconsin Act 25), a 50 percent tuition remission for certain veterans and a 100 percent tuition remission for certain dependents of veterans enrolled at University of Wisconsin System and Wisconsin Technical College System institutions; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 2006, the Wisconsin GI Bill (2006 Wisconsin Act 468) furthered the state's educational investment and opportunity for economic development by expanding the tuition remission for veterans to 100 percent; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that this expansion will dramatically increase the cost of the program, the Legislature delayed implementation of Act 468 provisions until the 2007-08 academic year to allow time to consider GPR funding for this program in the 2007-09 biennial budget;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents and the institutions of the UW System strongly support the development of a Veterans' Tuition Grant Program as an essential strategy for increasing access to higher education for Wisconsin's veterans and their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while individual campuses will administer much of the program, the Board applauds the willingness of the Higher Education Aids Board (HEAB) to facilitate the program and urges the state to provide funding to HEAB to support the grants and needed staffing to monitor the program's participation and costs, facilitate data collection and dissemination, and provide participating veterans with a single point of contact for information about the tuition grant program.