

Statement on Affordability and 2017-2019 Tuition

October 7, 2016

University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

Statement on Affordability of a High-Quality University of Wisconsin Education and Establishment of Resident Undergraduate Tuition for the 2017-19 Biennium

Resolution 10767

WHEREAS the Board of Regents affirms that the University of Wisconsin System is dedicated to providing an affordable, high-quality education for its students; and

WHEREAS affordability is influenced by the five key elements of time to degree, state support, financial aid, tuition, and cost to deliver the educational experience; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System is reducing time to degree by providing additional opportunities for high school students to complete college coursework, enhancing advising for UW students, and expanding seamless transfer opportunities; and

WHEREAS in August 2016 the Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin System requested a reasonable increase in state General Purpose Revenue for the 2017-19 biennium to address the state's workforce and educational needs, as guided by the 2020FWD strategic framework; and

WHEREAS to better serve eligible UW System students, in June 2016 the Board of Regents approved a request for an increase in state financial aid funding to be included in the Higher Educational Aids Board budget; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System continues to address the cost to deliver the educational experience by creating operational efficiencies through standardizing, consolidating, and streamlining operations, as expressed in the Commitment to Operational Reform and Effectiveness (CORE) initiative; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents recognizes that tuition is an important factor in maintaining affordability and would like to provide Wisconsin citizens with a fifth year of flat tuition for resident undergraduates in 2017-18; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, a high-quality education can only be delivered in a timely manner if tuition keeps pace with the cost of living;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents approves a zero-percent increase in resident undergraduate tuition for the 2017-18 academic year and an increase of no more than the rate of the Consumer Price Index in 2018-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents takes this action in the interest of maintaining a high-quality educational experience for UW System students, of giving Wisconsin students and their families the ability to plan ahead, and of promoting affordability.