

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
of the
BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

Madison, Wisconsin

UW-Madison
Held in 1820 Van Hise Hall
Thursday, March 9, 2006
9:30 a.m.

- President Walsh presiding -

PRESENT: Regents Axtell, Bradley, Burmaster, Connolly-Keesler, Crain,
Davis, Gracz, Loftus, Pruitt, Randall, Rosenzweig, Salas,
Semenas, Smith, Spector, and Walsh

UNABLE TO ATTEND: Regent McPike

- - -

**TAXPAYER PROTECTION AMENDMENT: ANALYSIS BY
PROFESSOR ANDREW RESCHOVSKY**

Regent President Walsh introduced Dr. Andrew Reschovsky, a professor of Applied Economics and Public Affairs at the UW-Madison Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs. Professor Reschovsky's research focus is tax policy and intergovernmental fiscal relations. He has conducted research for several state and local governments in the United States and also advises the Government of South Africa on design of grants for the financing of education and on the fiscal reform of local governments. He has worked in the Office of Tax Analysis at the U.S. Treasury and at the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

Beginning his presentation, Professor Reschovsky explained that the Taxpayer Protection Amendment (TPA) is a variant of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) in that both are constitutional amendments that use a formula to limit the growth of governmental expenditures and revenues. Any relaxing of the limits would have to be

approved by referenda. In that sense, it would replace the system of representative government for making decisions regarding taxation.

The TPA would limit the increase in revenue of the state, counties, and technical colleges to the Consumer Price Index plus population growth. School districts would be limited to the CPI plus enrollment growth in 5-year old kindergarten through 12th grade. Cities and villages would be limited to the CPI plus 60% of the value of net new construction. Ninety three percent of the towns, comprising 23% of the population, would be excluded. A rainy day fund of eight percent of revenues would be established for state government only. Any amount above that would be returned to the taxpayers.

In the TPA, revenue would be defined as taxes, fees, licenses, fines, and revenue generated from bonds. UW and technical college tuition and fees would be excluded and bond proceeds would be excluded in the base year.

The CPI, Dr. Reschovsky explained, is composed of a market basket of typical household purchases that is very different from what the university buys, including high skilled individuals who require competitive salaries, and health insurance and fuel, both of which have increased in cost much faster than the CPI. Therefore, if spending were limited to the rate of inflation and costs went up much higher, the result must be downsizing in the ability to deliver services by the state and the university. State government, he noted, will face increased health care costs to serve an aging population, at a time when the federal government is reducing funding for the states.

Noting that the formula of the TPA is structured to downsize government, he explained that, while ability to pay is increased by income, the amendment would limit revenue growth for government to the CPI plus population growth and that the CPI will grow at a smaller rate than the economy. Therefore, government will become a smaller and smaller share of the economy.

Dr. Reschovsky then turned to a graph showing that, if the TPA had been in effect in 1985, allowable revenue in 2005 would be \$10 billion, compared to actual revenue of \$17 billion. The UW System would in the best case have had \$210 million less, or \$1550 per FTE student, in addition to the budget reductions already taken. That figure is optimistic, he pointed out, because the UW has not been favored among state priorities due to increasing costs of Medicaid, health care, and funding two-thirds of K-12 education. These other priorities would press for more money, while under the TPA, the state would have less to spend. The probable result would be a greater funding gap for the university.

In order to fill the funding gap, the UW would need large amounts of extra tuition or a 12% enrollment cut, equivalent to 16,250 students in 2005.

Regent President Walsh asked if these are impacts that could be expected after 20 years under the TPA, and Professor Reschovsky replied in the affirmative. The impact after 10 years would be about half.

Consequences of reduced UW budgets due to the TPA, Dr. Reschovsky continued, would include reduced ability to attract and retain the best scholars. In that regard, he noted that, at UW-Madison, in the past two years outside offers have doubled and the percentage retained has fallen to 50%. Faculty who stay at UW-Madison on

average generate \$3.50 in outside grants for every \$1.00 of university support. Inability to retain these people diminishes the rate of return because start-up costs for new faculty are higher than continuing costs and faculty bring in more outside dollars later in their careers.

A critical consequence would be lessened ability for the UW to enhance the state's competitive position. Lower investment in the UW would result in creation of fewer high-skill jobs in Wisconsin and slower economic growth.

In discussion following the presentation, Regent Axtell inquired about the Colorado experience with a TABOR amendment. Professor Reschovsky replied that what he was predicting for Wisconsin had happened in Colorado and that cuts in services had resulted in a vote to suspend TABOR for five years.

Regent Crain inquired about enrollments in Colorado, and Dr. Reschovsky indicated that he did not have that information.

In response to a question by Regent Loftus, Dr. Reschovsky said that this was a first consideration of the TPA, that it would have to pass the Legislature in identical form next year and would go into effect in 2009, if passed by a referendum. He added, however, that the amendment would send signals much sooner that would harm the state's competitive position.

Regent Loftus inquired about the language in the proposed amendment regarding tuition, and Dr. Reschovsky indicated that it specified tuition and fees for university purposes as being excluded from the definition of revenue.

In response to a further question by Regent Loftus, he added that future boards of regents would need to decide levels of tuition and enrollments.

Regent Loftus remarked that, in future decisions, the state could place a higher priority on the university.

Regent Spector noted that the history of declining state support would lend credence to Professor Reschovsky's predictions. Dr. Reschovsky added that the UW has received a decreasing share of total appropriations since the 1970s.

Regent Pruitt asked if the gap in access for low and moderate income students would widen under the TPA, and Professor Reschovsky replied that it would be hard to imagine that it would not widen. If tuition were increased to fill the gap, and financial aid were not increased at the same rate, numbers of low and moderate income students would be reduced. If tuition were raised even higher, however, some of the money could be used to fund financial aid for those students.

Regent Pruitt remarked that a significant tuition increase would seem necessary to replace declining state support under TPA, and Dr. Reschovsky agreed with that observation.

In response to a question by Regent Bradley, Dr. Reschovsky indicated that it is difficult to predict exactly who would win and lose under the TPA. In that regard, he noted that future legislatures would need to determine which taxes to lower. One

possibility would be that the tax system could be reformed to benefit lower income individuals.

Regent President Walsh pointed out that the UW has increased enrollments in the face of budget reductions by significant belt tightening. The amendment would mean that the university would receive less money to accomplish its goals of increasing access and expanding the number of baccalaureate degree holders in the state. He asked about whether there were similar proposals in other states besides Colorado.

Dr. Reschovsky replied that states have a history of limiting revenue or spending in a variety of ways. One of the best known is Proposition 13 in California which affected only property taxes and resulted in greatly reduced spending on education. Scholars have studied the impact and concluded that the result was a significant decline in the quality of K-12 education in that state.

Regent Crain observed that one concern is the tension in competing for funds, especially for the university and the K-12 system, which should be congruent and supportive of each other. The amendment, she felt, might cause such tensions.

Dr. Reschovsky agreed that competition would be inevitable.

In response to a question by Regent Axtell about the rate of tuition increases under the amendment, Dr. Reschovsky indicated that, because educational costs would rise faster than the formula, there would be single digit tuition increases in the first few years, but they would be followed by double digit increases later.

Regent Spector indicated that in California local foundations supplemented support for schools in wealthy districts. He asked if tuition increases could be lessened by cutting back the scope of the university in terms of the range of courses offered and other means.

Professor Reschovsky agreed that could be done if the cuts were large enough but noted that cutting faculty would mean educating fewer students.

Regent Loftus recalled that in the early 1980s the state was in a difficult fiscal position and the university was directed to cap enrollment, a path that was chosen in order to avoid harm to the university in the long run. This year, the largest freshman class in history was enrolled. He asked if that would not be a likely solution in this case as well. Dr. Reschovsky noted that reduction in enrollments and other options would need to be decided by future boards of regents.

Noting that gift and grant support for the university has grown exponentially, Regent President Walsh pointed out that this source of income declines when star faculty are hired away. He asked if it would be fair to respond to the TPA proposal that, with reduced state support, the result would have to be reduced enrollments if there were to be sensitivity to the rate of tuition increases. Dr. Reschovsky concurred with that observation.

Concluding the discussion, Regent President Walsh stated that the university needs to do more, not less, to educate students.

- - -

UNITED COUNCIL 2007-09 BUDGET PRIORITIES

In introductory remarks, Associate Vice President Freda Harris noted that every two years the Board seeks input from students on their priorities for the biennial budget request. United Council of UW Students traditionally has taken the lead in bringing forward those priorities. Formed in 1960, United Council represents students on 24 UW campuses.

-

Remarks by Guillermo Cuautle, Jr., Vice President of United Council of UW Students

Explaining how the budget priorities were selected, Mr. Cuautle, a student at UW-Milwaukee, related that, at the October 2005 General Assembly, students created a list of priorities based on input they had received from their campuses. In February 2006, David Glisch-Sanchez, United Council Academic Affairs Director, presented options to a joint session of the Legislative and Academic Affairs committees to determine the specific details of those priorities. The General Assembly then adopted the recommendations from the joint session.

In order to gain reinvestment from the state, Mr. Cuautle commented that the Board and the entire UW community must communicate a genuine vision that allows all Wisconsin families to see their reflection and that creates the hope, motivation and belief necessary to spur reinvestment in public higher education. In that regard, he stated United Council's conviction that higher education should be a right for all and that the biennial budget should focus on accessibility for low-income students, rather than affordability for middle and upper-income students.

-

Remarks by Ryan Kockler, President, UW-La Crosse Student Association

Speaking about access as it relates to tuition and financial aid, Mr. Kockler commented that research has shown that low tuition and high financial aid are the only measures that address access for low-income students, while also providing needed relief for middle-income families. In that regard, he referred to the Minnesota experience with a higher tuition/high aid model. The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education's third biennial report card showed that in Minnesota, as in Wisconsin, families in the two lowest income quintiles must pay 33% of their annual earnings to attend college. In addition, the December 2004 issue of *Postsecondary Education Opportunity* reported that Wisconsin and Minnesota exhibited the largest decreases in low-income participation rates in higher education in the nation.

Therefore, Mr. Kockler urged the Board to adopt low-tuition/high aid as a central tenet of the 2007-09 biennial budget request. Specific proposals were to:

- Increase GPR support for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant by \$33.4 million. This increase would allow the average award to be increased by over \$540, the equivalent of half the tuition at a UW comprehensive university.
- Increase state support for Lawton Grants by nearly \$3.2 million to increase the average award by over \$700 in order to address the greater financial need of students of color.
- Increase state support for the Advanced Opportunity Program by \$1.2 million in order to make UW institutions more competitive in attracting graduate students of color along with low-income white graduate students.

-

Remarks by Katrina Flores, Executive Staff, MultiCultural Student Coalition

Presenting Plan 2008 and domestic partnership benefits as two of United Council's budget priorities, Ms. Flores noted that the Board's Resolution 8970 recommended that campus Phase II plans "describe the accountability process, including incentives and penalties for success and failure to close the achievement gap." Campus officials have explained, however, that budgetary constraints make the resources needed to create such incentives extremely scarce. Stating that graduation gaps between white students and students of color never have been greater, she asked the Board to request an additional \$8.25 million for the 402 Fund, which is meant to address the needs of students of color and low-income students. The funds would be utilized as follows:

- \$3 million to create an incentive fund for individual campuses to reach their goals.
- \$5 million to be disbursed to all campuses to either expand current efforts or fund new initiatives related to campus diversity plans.
- \$250,000 to address understaffing and expand the work capacity of the Office of Academic Diversity and Development.

As to domestic partner benefits, Ms. Flores noted the UW's Inclusivity Initiative on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning People, which has a goal of promoting equal access, retention and success of LGBTQ students and employees. In order to accomplish that goal, she said, a compelling case must be made for offering domestic partner benefits for UW employees. This would allow campuses to recruit the most talented employees available and provide the type of mentoring that LGBTQ students need in order to be successful.

-

Remarks of Jennifer Schmidt, Member, UW-Fond du Lac Student Association

Ms. Schmidt spoke first of the importance of employee pay as a budget priority.

Pointing out that professional excellence in the UW System is at risk, Ms. Schmidt related her concern, as a member of the campus appointments committee, over inability to recruit and retain quality faculty. Faculty on campuses around the state, she pointed out, are leaving for private sector jobs or for positions in other universities willing to pay a competitive wage. Noting that in recent biennia, tuition has been used to pay for substantial portions of employee pay increases, she commented that the state has primary responsibility for competitively compensating its workforce. For these reasons, United Council asked that the Board request, at minimum, an increase of \$30.6 million in state funds be begin closing the gap between the pay of UW faculty and their peers.

Ms. Schmidt identified the Initiative on the Status of Women as another issue of importance to students. This project is intended to address: 1) Promotion and tenure of women faculty; 2) women faculty, staff and students in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and 3) campus climate for women as it relates to sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Seed money for the initiative, she noted, was provided by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, with the intent that the project eventually would be incorporated into the base budget. However, this was not possible due to large budget deficits in recent years, and Sloan Foundation funding is to end this spring. Therefore, in order to continue the work of the initiative, United Council recommended incorporating it into the 2007-09 biennial budget at a funding level of \$400,000, which would provide three staff positions, allowing the project's work to go forward.

-

David Glisch-Sanchez, Academic Affairs Director of United Council

In concluding remarks, Mr. Glisch-Sanchez referred to a written list of suggestions for cost-saving measures that United Council had provided. It was his view that, in order to minimize tuition increases, it is necessary to evolve in the way services are delivered because he felt that traditional methods of operating have become too costly.

In developing the 2007-09 budget request, he urged the Board to incorporate "stretch" goals that reflect student priorities.

In discussion following the presentation, Regent Salas recalled that, in the last biennial budget request, the Regents presented a plan to hold lower income students harmless from tuition increases by providing offsetting financial aid. While the Joint Committee on Finance reduced requested aid, the Governor was able to add some of it back in the final budget. He asked Mr. Glisch-Sanchez what United Council would recommend for a plan in this budget that would win approval and whether United Council would support having financial aid come from tuition.

In reply, Mr. Glisch-Sanchez suggested changing the way affordability is discussed. Remarking that students and families to not consider tuition to be affordable, he felt that is the point that should be emphasized, rather than focusing on how UW tuition is affordable in comparison tuition at peer institutions. He also thought it

important to emphasize voter registration and make sure that people who care about higher education get out to vote.

With regard to Regent Salas' second question, he felt that to take financial aid from tuition would set a dangerous precedent and that the deterrent effect of "sticker shock" from higher tuition would negate the benefits of increased aid for lower income students.

Regent Davis asked about United Council's assessment of whether there would be enough legislative concern about lower income students to provide a critical mass of support for increased financial aid.

Mr. Cuatle thought that the Board should ask for as much financial aid as needed and make a strong case for why it is important. Legislators then would need to be accountable for their decisions.

Regent Pruitt inquired about United Council's stance with regard to the Taxpayer Protection Amendment and what actions the group was taking.

Mr. Glisch-Sanchez replied that United Council is absolutely opposed to the amendment. They were making their position known through the media and meetings with legislators. If it came to a referendum, they planned to educate and register voters.

Regent Walsh asked if United Council advocated including tuition in the revenue cap, and Mr. Glisch-Sanchez replied in the affirmative. Regent Walsh asked if that meant that United Council would rather see enrollment limited than see tuition increased, to which Mr. Glisch-Sanchez replied that, while United Council asked for the change to make proposal more student friendly, the group still opposed the TPA as a whole.

Regent Crain asked about the level of student awareness of United Council's budget priorities; and Mr. Glisch-Sanchez replied that there was a high level of awareness because student representatives chose the priorities.

Regent Bradley asked United Council to formulate a recommendation as to what the group would recommend in terms of enrollment if tuition were held down and state support were to be insufficient because of the TPA or denial of funding requests. Mr. Glisch-Sanchez replied that the matter would be discussed at the April General Assembly.

- - -

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE: UW SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2005-06

In opening remarks, President Reilly noted that this is the 12th year that the UW has issued a systemwide accountability report. The first in the nation to adopt such a report, the UW remains a model for many states.

Observing that there are various ways to measure a university, he noted that one such measure is productivity. According to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, Wisconsin is one of the states with the most productive public baccalaureate and master's institutions, relative to its resources. The same is true for the university's very productive research sector.

While *Achieving Excellence* is not intended to incorporate all possible measures of a university, it does track several important quantitative calculations, as well as reports from student and alumni surveys. Therefore, the report provides a strong understanding of how well the UW is achieving its goals in terms of both quantity and quality.

Noting that Regent Axtell had long championed the purpose and philosophy of the *Achieving Excellence* report, President Reilly asked him to share some of his observations about the report.

Regent Axtell remarked that *Achieving Excellence* is the single most important report produced by the UW System and that it is a powerful means of showing the Board and the university's stakeholders how well the UW is doing.

The report, he recalled, originated from the 1992 UW System Compensation Commission, on which he served, along with legislators and other members. The commission made four recommendations:

- The Board of Regents should have more authority for management, including salary determinations.
- The budget should be in a unified, rather than a line-item format, with determinations about distribution made by the Board.
- GPR support for the UW should not be reduced below 1991 levels.
- A Task Force on Accountability Measures should be appointed.

This task force, on which Regent Axtell also served, along with legislators and other members, provided benchmarks for the report. The purpose, he recalled, was to assure accountability, in return for which the UW would be given more flexibility to manage, as recommended by the Compensation Commission.

While the university has provided this accountability for many years, he pointed out, the promised flexibilities have not been granted.

Continuing his remarks, President Reilly cited the following challenges faced by the university over the past year:

- State tax support for the UW System is at its lowest percentage ever – 24% of the total budget, down from 52% thirty years ago. More than half – 55% -- comes from gifts, grants, and revenue directly earned by the UW.
- The decrease in state support means more reliance on tuition to cover 21% of the total budget, up from 13% in 1974.
- At a time when it is becoming more difficult for students to afford college, Wisconsin remains behind both Illinois and Minnesota in the number of

baccalaureate degree holders – only 24%. Improving that rate is a major focus of the Growth Agenda.

President Reilly then called upon Interim Associate Vice President Sharon Wilhelm and thanked her and the entire team in the Office of Policy Analysis and Research for their attentive, competent and professional work on this report.

Ms. Wilhelm began by indicating that the accountability report is designed to provide a broad array of information about the UW's progress towards achieving excellence. Although it would not be possible to include every area of university activity in the report, careful attention is given to addressing a wide variety of stakeholder interests through a balanced approach.

The report shows that the UW met or exceeded 12 of its 20 goals. There was mixed success on five other measures, and three targets have yet to be reached. Challenges identified in the report include:

- The UW has not yet achieved its diversity-related goals. A gap still persists between retention and graduation rates of students of color, compared to all students.
- Although the numbers of students studying abroad continues to increase, the goal has not yet been reached of a study-abroad experience for 25% of bachelor's degree recipients.

Good news in the report includes the following:

- The UW continues to provide access for 33% of Wisconsin high school graduates.
- Participation by elementary and secondary students in multicultural and disadvantaged pre-college programs continues to increase.
- The UW's six-year graduation rate increased by more than one percentage point, exceeding the target of 61.8%. While the systemwide target for retaining students to the second year was not reached, it was higher than last year and above the national average.
- The average number of credits attempted on the path to a bachelor's degree went down at almost every UW institution, with the systemwide average now at 135 credits, down 10 credits from a decade ago.
- Alumni continue to give the UW high marks on fostering critical thinking, planned learning experiences outside the classroom, and activities that promote good citizenship.
- The number of collaborative academic programs continues to grow and extend educational opportunities to more students.

Ms. Wilhelm pointed out that budget and enrollment pressures have forced UW institutions to make difficult compromises. For example, the number of adult, nontraditional students has declined for the fourth year in a row, while the UW has preserved access for students right out of high school.

In conclusion, Ms. Wilhelm called attention to the institutional accountability reports that accompanied the systemwide report. These reports showed how each institution performed on four common measures: enrollment, retention/graduation rates, student involvement, and credits-to-degree. They also reflected measures specific to particular institutions.

President Reilly added that the campus reports showed the niches filled by individual institutions. These include serving nontraditional and transfer students, preparing students for professional careers, and providing opportunities for undergraduate research, service learning, civic engagement, and interdisciplinary study.

-

Growth Agenda for the UW System

President Reilly advised that goals and measures were being developed to guide planning for an accelerated growth agenda, many of which were already part of what is measured by the *Achieving Excellence* accountability report. Two major metrics were being considered, with several objectives under each one.

First, a successful Growth Agenda would increase the number of bachelor's degrees awarded by the UW System. In an environment of flat high-school graduation numbers and tuition that is likely to continue rising, it would be necessary to enroll more students from low-income families who might be tempted to give up on college. The Wisconsin Covenant would help to make that happen.

It also would be necessary to enroll more adult and nontraditional students through such programs as the Adult Student Initiative and other efforts resulting from the work of the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion. The UW also would need to retain and graduate more students and to increase the number of graduates in areas of high state need, like nursing, science, mathematics and engineering.

To award more degrees, it would be necessary to achieve a second goal – growing financial capacity to support more student enrollments and open the UW's doors far and wide.

Growing enrollment in a way that maintains educational quality means increased state support per student. Currently, it is \$1,228 below the national average.

It will be important, he emphasized, to work with partners in state government and the Legislature to make sure there are no more cuts to state tax support of the UW and that there is reinvestment in strategic areas for the future.

The UW will move forward with the decision to increase Wisconsin resident enrollment by using additional revenues collected from more out-of-state students attracted to UW campuses by more competitively priced tuition.

The Board will be asked to support UW campuses as they develop creative ways to help achieve the growth needed to move the state forward.

In addition, financial aid would need to be increased, in connection with the Wisconsin Covenant. Hard choices would need to be made to invest in what will move the state forward, financial aid certainly being one of those investments.

Finally, President Reilly asked the Regents to talk about the *Achieving Excellence* report with their legislative partners and others. The report also will be shared with provosts, admission officers, public information officers, and institutional researchers at all UW institutions. Copies also will be provided to colleagues in the K-12 and Technical College System, as well as with the Governor, all legislators, the congressional delegation and reporters. In addition, it will be available to the public through the UW website at Wisconsin.edu.

In discussion following the presentation, Regent Davis expressed concern about affordability. While college expenses in Wisconsin consumed 19% of an average household income, compared to the national average of 25%, the figure represents growth of 3.9% over five years. Importantly, she pointed out, for low-income families, the figure is 33%.

While the accountability report is a helpful self-management document, she noted that it does not answer many “why” questions, especially in closing gaps for students of color. In that regard, she indicated that initiatives like the Equity Scorecard need also to be reviewed by the Board to help answer those kinds of questions.

Regent Salas pointed out that first-to-second year retention rates for new freshmen of color had increased, but only slightly – from 74% to 74.6%. Retention rates were highest for Asian American, but lower for others, with African Americans at 70%. While the six-year graduation rate for students of color was 56.8%, for African Americans it was only 31% and less than 50% for Latinos and Native Americans. Asking what could be done to improve these figures, he felt that progress in this regard should be included in chancellors’ annual evaluations.

President Reilly agreed and indicated the progress on these measures is discussed regularly with the chancellors and others. He concurred with Regent Davis that the Equity Scorecard is an effective way to determine what should be done to improve the situation so that resources can be targeted accordingly.

Regent Smith asked why the number of nontraditional students had decreased by nearly 10,000 in the past ten years and what could be done to better serve this population.

President Reilly explained that, as resources were cut back, campuses tended to focus more on traditional students because nontraditional students require different courses and services that cost more money. He thought that initial grants resulting from the Committee on Baccalaureate Expansion report would be helpful in expanding access to nontraditional students. Other efforts include the Adult Student Initiative and recognition of credit for experiential learning.

Regent Pruitt observed that good advising is integral to seamless transfer and expanding baccalaureate degrees. He suggested that a priority be placed on making improvements in that area.

In that regard, President Reilly noted that when UW campuses were directed not to cut instruction during recent budget reductions, they took money from other areas, including advising. Reinvestment in the UW would permit more to be done to enhance this important service.

Interim Chancellor Van Kekerix added that the easiest way to increase numbers of degrees awarded is to serve more people with similar backgrounds. Noting that adult students are more diverse than traditional students, he explained that they require more and different courses and advising, attention to their family constraints, and alternative course delivery methods. Through the Adult Student Initiative, UW-Extension and the UW Colleges were working to provide more aggressive advising to adult students.

Senior Vice President Marrett added that the Education Committee was to hear a presentation on how technology can help to identify students at risk and enhance learning.

Chancellor Markee noted that some campuses are more focused on traditional students than others, in part based on location. He felt that distance learning is an important answer to the question of improving service to nontraditional students, and he cautioned that younger traditional students also need advising and other services that have suffered cuts in recent years.

Provost Rita Cheng said that, at UW-Milwaukee, deans are informed when advising in their areas rates low in senior surveys. The university found its freshman advising to be better than the national average; however, in the schools and colleges the ratio students per advisor has been running from 300 – 500 students to one advisor.

Chancellor Keating noted that at UW-Parkside 20% of the students are over 25 years old. The key to serving them, he commented, is to provide courses when and where they want, which to some extent decreases the course availability for traditional students. Noting that advisors were included as administrative employees in the Legislative Audit Bureau report, he said the campus does not have the number of advisors that students need.

Regent Loftus commented that increasing university graduates would not necessarily increase the number of baccalaureate degree holders in the state. While more than 80% obtain employment in Wisconsin, the numbers leaving the state are not offset by the numbers coming to Wisconsin from other states. He asked if the 80% figure included Minnesota reciprocity students, and Ms. Wilhelm replied that it included only Wisconsin residents. In response to a further question by Regent Loftus, she indicated that a large proportion of those leaving the state go to the Chicago and Twin City areas.

Noting that the proportion of students of color graduating from state high schools would increase from 14% to 21% in the near future, he asked if there were any plans to deal with these additional students. In that regard, he noted that Arizona adopted a plan to grow enrollments by more than 40,000, most of whom will be students of color.

President Reilly replied that there are multiple programs in place to work with students of color, the PEOPLE program at UW-Madison being one example. In future years, the Equity Scorecard efforts and the Wisconsin Covenant should help in providing access and services to students of color.

Chancellor Wells noted that UW-Oshkosh has been using differential tuition to enhance advising and other student services. The result has been improved retention and graduation rates and significant closing of gaps between students of color and other students. To make them most effective, services are customized to the needs of different students.

Chancellor Shepard indicated that Green Bay is growing rapidly as an urban area and the number of people of color is increasing. It is important for the university to help to raise the aspirations of these young people.

Chancellor Santiago pointed out that federal funding for pre-college programs is in jeopardy. These programs, he commented, are very important in encouraging young people to pursue higher education.

Regent Loftus commended UW-Parkside for its success in expanding services to more effectively serve nontraditional students.

In response to a question by Regent Connolly-Keesler, Ms. Wilhelm indicated that the study showing that 80% of state residents find employment in Wisconsin after graduation was done in 2001.

Regent Crain suggested that a cover letter be added to the report when distributing it to legislators and others that would set forth some of the key points.

Regent Salas asked if campuses making the most successful impact on students of color could receive special funding.

President Reilly indicated that the Integrated Planning Group has been looking at such issues. In addition, the Equity Scorecard will analyze how to close the gaps, so that resources can be directed most effectively.

Regent Davis remarked that, while pre-college programs are thought to increase subsequent enrollments of participants, there did not seem to be evidence of a direct link. Ms. Wilhelm replied that efforts are under way to track pre-college participants to find out whether they went to college and in which institutions they enrolled. While exact numbers had not yet been captured, the programs are known to be successful.

The discussion concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m., upon motion of Regent Pruitt, seconded by Regent Rosenzweig.

Submitted by:

Judith A. Temby, Secretary