

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

I.4. Research, Economic Development,
and Innovation Committee

Thursday, August 21, 2014
UW-Oshkosh
Alumni Welcome and Conference Center
Sodexo Grand Ballroom AB
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

9:00 a.m. Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee

- a. Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2014 Meeting of the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation Committee
- b. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) – Global Opportunities: Exports Help Drive Wisconsin’s Economy – Led by WEDC CEO and Secretary Reed Hall
- c. Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant and Regent Scholar Program Update [Resolution I.4.c.]
- d. UW-Oshkosh Undergraduate Research, Economic Development, and Business Outreach Discussion and Update on Economic Development Incentive Grant Program Recipients – Led by Chancellor Richard Wells

**WISCONSIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (WEDC)
GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION**

BACKGROUND

The UW System and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) continue to strengthen and expand partnership initiatives designed to identify and leverage collaborations and initiatives accelerating innovation in regional and international business development. WEDC provides regular updates to the REDI Committee on current and planned initiatives and provides progress reports on outcomes.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

WEDC Secretary and CEO Reed Hall and WEDC staff will provide an update on current programs with a focus on WEDC's efforts to collaborate with the university and state businesses to build export relationships and to foster increased foreign direct investment in Wisconsin, in order to strengthen the economy and expand global connectivity.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

UW System Board of Regent Support for Implementation of
Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant and Regent Scholar Programs

RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Resolution I.4.c:

That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the UW System Board of Regents expresses its endorsement of the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant and Regent Scholars implementation plans for FY 2014-2015 and encourages continuing discussions with WEDC and other partners to assess the most effective way to align UW System research programs and activities with state efforts to increase economic development and job creation.

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY GRANT AND
REGENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM UPDATE**

BACKGROUND

In June 2014, the REDI Committee endorsed two new program concepts: first, a capacity building Discovery Grant program to expand undergraduate research at UW System two-year and four-year campus locations, and a new Regent Scholar program to recognize faculty excellence, promote high quality, collaborative research initiatives and partnerships, entrepreneurialism and innovation. The capacity grants will be awarded based on work plans and recommendations developed by each campus to serve site-specific needs.

The following program funding parameters were approved at the June 2014 Board of Regents meeting.

Undergraduate Research And Discovery Grants		
UW Four-Year Institutions	(\$50,000 each x 13)	\$650,000
UW Two-Year Institutions	(\$10,000 each x 13)	\$130,000
Regent Scholar Program		
Faculty/Student Awards	(\$50,000 each x 5)	\$250,000
Total Funding Approved		\$1,030,000

The funding for both programs in FY 2014-15 will come from Systemwide balances. Future funding sources are as yet undetermined.

REQUESTED ACTION

Approval of Resolution I.4.c.

DISCUSSION

The UW System has reviewed and finalized the implementation plans for the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant Program (Attachment 1) and the Regent Scholar Program (Attachment 2). Each implementation plan includes the following: Application requirements and process, selection process details and timelines, award terms, and outcomes reporting requirements.

Resolution I.4.c. endorses the program implementation plans (Attachments 1 and 2) and encourages the UW System to work with WEDC and other partners to assess the most effective way to align UW System research programs and activities with state efforts to increase economic development and job creation.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENT 1

Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant Implementation Plan

These capacity-building grants of up to \$50,000 for each four-year UW institution and \$10,000 for each two-year institution will assist in alleviating some of the existing resource limitations to expanding undergraduate research (funding, time, administrative support). These activities are recognized by CUR as high-impact practices that can nurture success among the state's youth and foster an innovative spirit. Undergraduate research is a practice that meets multiple policy goals, and its growth will only benefit young people, academe, the research enterprise, the economy, and the state of Wisconsin.

Grants will be administered by individual campus locations to support and sustain highly effective undergraduate research environments that exhibit many of the following characteristics and goals:

1. Ensuring that all undergraduate students encounter systemic opportunities to learn and practice research skills, including integrating research preparation and practice into curricula and coursework during their first two years;
2. Increasing the number of undergraduate students participating in research experiences and enhancing the quality of these experiences;
3. Identifying and implementing the necessary policy actions for campuses to take from CUR's "*Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research*" best practices;
4. Developing campus-wide engagement plans as offspring of the plans developed by teams participating in UW System-CUR workshops; and
5. Fostering alignment and collaboration across UW System campuses in both undergraduate research program development and evaluation.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

UW System Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grants will be awarded based on work plans and recommendations developed by each campus to serve site-specific needs. UW System officials will evaluate work plans and recommendations to determine their suitability. Each grant application should indicate plans will go through the IRB or IACUC approval process as appropriate. Each institution will be eligible to receive one of these non-competitive grants during FY 2014-2015. Criteria for application include the following:

1. **Chancellor/Provost and UW College Dean Approval.** Campus Chancellor/Provost and UW College Dean to sign off on work plans to demonstrate priority and connectedness to the campus strategic plan.
2. **Work Plans.** Work plans must include the following pieces of information: Executive summary, program description, outcomes, and principal contact information for persons in charge of and accountable for implementation.
 - a. **Outcomes.** Program metrics and measurable outcomes should be stated in work plans.

- b. **Length of Work Plan.** Each work plan should be limited to seven pages, double-spaced 12-point font.
- 3. **Budget Summary.** The amount of funding being requested and a general description of how the funding would be used. Maximum length: Two pages. Funding may be used for many purposes, including student stipends, salaries, supplies, seminar/conference costs, etc.
- 4. **Timeline for Review.** UW System anticipates the application process for the Undergraduate Research and Discovery Grant will be iterative with institutions applying and then responding to questions from the System, if there are questions, until there is agreement about the work plan. **It is the intention of UW System to expedite funding to the campuses. Initial applications are due by Oct. 30 in order to assure funding before year-end 2014.**

Outcome Report. A Project Outcome Report will be required of each institution that summarizes the outcome of the award and describes outcomes and findings (Anticipated due date: July 2015)

ATTACHMENT 2

Regent Scholar Grant Implementation Plan

The Regent Scholar Grant program will initially provide five awards of up to \$50,000 (or, in extraordinary cases up to \$100,000). Regent Scholar Grants will be available for faculty, along with undergraduate students, and other collaborative partners, supporting entrepreneurial ideas and innovative projects, with the following goals in mind:

1. Provide summer funding support for faculty to engage in research and other scholarly activities;
2. Promote stellar research experiences for undergraduate students, thus preparing a high-quality workforce;
3. Stimulate research across UW System comprehensive and two-year campuses, ultimately driving regional economic development; and
4. Recognize research and scholarly activity (URSCA) at the UW System Board of Regents level.

Grants will be awarded competitively based on recommendations by a selection committee made up of both public and private sector experts. Please be aware that each grant application should indicate plans will go through the IRB or IACUC approval process as appropriate. Awardees will be recognized by the UW System Board of Regents as “Regent Scholars.”

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS

Through a competitive process, Regent Scholar Grants will be available for faculty to explore with undergraduate students, and other collaborative partners, entrepreneurial ideas and innovative projects that aim to expand the boundaries of knowledge, enhance research, stimulate new technologies, inspire start-up activity, fuel product development, better prepare the future workforce, and create or retain jobs in Wisconsin.

To be considered for funding, a proposal must complete all of the following application requirements outlined below. Selection committee members will evaluate each grant proposal and score it using a possible total of 100 points. Possible point totals for each application section are outlined below. Grants will be awarded based upon cumulative point totals.

To be considered, applicants must submit a cover page and a proposal narrative (**maximum length: 5 pages, double-spaced, with 12-point font**) that includes the following:

1. **Cover Page.** Please use the form available on the grant application website. (URL to come.)
2. **Abstract.** Maximum length: One double-spaced page, 12-point font.
3. **Description of the project and its innovativeness (35 points).** Maximum length: Three pages, double-spaced 12-point font.
4. **Project significance and impact (30 points).** Maximum length: Three pages, double-spaced 12-point font.

5. Roles and responsibilities of faculty investigator and students (20 points). Maximum length: One page, double-spaced 12-point font.

6. Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative (15 points). Maximum length: Two pages.

Budget Requirements and Guidelines

The detailed budget including, budget narrative and budget spreadsheets, should itemize proposed expenses along the lines of salary, fringe benefits, student stipends, equipment and travel, along with other eligible expenses. Funds may be used for many purposes, such as salaries, wages, fringe benefits, consultants, equipment, materials, supplies, and travel. It is expected that students will be compensated to a level that allows them to participate fully in the summer project. Indirect costs are not allowed. Funding is for FY 2015 and may be carried over to FY 2016 with approval from UW System.

Additional Documentation

Letters of reference from individuals within the business community and/or letters of commitment from collaborators are welcomed, though not required.

Universities may submit multiple bids, though each university is limited to a maximum of three. The awards application process will need to be managed on each campus, per campus norms, but is likely to include submission by the institution's research grants office.

SELECTION TIMELINE

1. For the 2014-2015, the application deadline will be **October 3**.
2. Applications will be reviewed internally by UW System to ensure completeness. Completed applications will be forwarded to the selection committee for review by **October 14**.
3. The selection committee will review and discuss (in-person and/or via teleconference) applications between **October 14 and November 7**.
4. The selection committee will make final award decisions **no later than November 7**.
5. UW System will distribute award funding to recipients beginning **November 15**.

SELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROCESS

The selection committee includes individuals from both the public and private sectors. One of the members will be a Regent or Regent Emeritus; two members will be employees of UW System and/or UW institutions; and three non-UW System members will be from Wisconsin businesses and organizations experienced with economic development, workforce development, STEM, and arts and humanities education. UW System will consult with the Legislature and Joint Committee on Finance to help determine selection committee members who reflect diverse economic and workforce needs.

Selection committee members will evaluate each grant proposal and score it using a possible total of 100 points. Possible point totals and guidelines for each application section are outlined below. Grants will be awarded based upon cumulative point totals.

- 1. Description of the project and its innovativeness (35 points)**
- 2. Project significance and impact (30 points)**
- 3. Roles and responsibilities of faculty and students (20 points)**
- 4. Detailed Budget and Budget Narrative (15 points)**

Applicants will be able to access the assessment rubric (currently in development) in advance of their applications so as to make the best possible case.

AWARD TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

The UW System Board of Regents will formally recognize faculty and students involved in the project as “Regent Scholars.” Regent Scholars will be encouraged to disseminate the results of their work in other local, national, and international venues as well.

It is expected that Regent Scholars will work with the UW System Administration Office of Policy Analysis and Research to document the education, economic and workforce outcomes of the Regent Scholar Grant Program over time, including supplying data to capture:

- The impact of undergraduate research experiences on student learning, workforce readiness, preparation and professional success, including, if appropriate, postgraduate placement and success;
- Expansion of research activities and scholarship outputs at comprehensive and two-year campuses;
- Economic development contributions of comprehensive and two-year campuses to the State of Wisconsin. A requirement of the award is long term tracking of the success of the students involved so as to measure effective resource allocation. UW System will collect data on employment and student matriculation in STEM fields for student participants in the grant program, through the receipt of the undergraduate degree and for at least 3 years thereafter. Grant recipients should create mechanisms to stay in contact with student participants during college and after graduation.

**UW-OSHKOSH UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
BUSINESS OUTREACH DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS – LED BY
CHANCELLOR RICHARD WELLS**

BACKGROUND

The University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is the third largest university in the state and serves as the arts and cultural center for 1.2 million residents of northeastern Wisconsin. UW-Oshkosh collaborates with regional, national, and international organizations and serves as an economic engine by contributing more than \$501 million to the region annually. Its Business Success Center and other key initiatives contribute to workforce development, economic growth and the overall quality of life. The university excels at providing opportunities for students to engage in career preparedness, participate in internships and secure other hands-on work experiences.

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

DISCUSSION

UW-Oshkosh provides many linkages between academic study and the world of work. Its presentation to REDI showcases several alternative approaches to regional collaborative partnerships that integrate work with expanded academic and experiential learning opportunities for students. Initiatives to be highlighted include the UW System Economic Development Incentive Grants, UW-Oshkosh Business Success Center, the Aviation/Business Park/Business Accelerator, the Viessmann international student leadership development program, and partnerships with John Michael Kohler Art Center and Best Western Waterfront Hotel.

The following will join Chancellor Rick Wells to provide additional information on these initiatives and/or be available to answer questions:

- Art Rathjen, president of the UW-Oshkosh Foundation
- Tom Sonnleitner, vice chancellor of Administrative Services

REQUESTED ACTION

Information only.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

Not applicable.