

MEETING NOTICE

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

August 18, 2015

10:00 a.m.

To be held by telephone conference

1511 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin

AGENDA

1. Calling of the roll
2. Consider a \$6 increase in UW-Madison's undergraduate application fee, beginning September 1, 2015
[Resolution 2.]
3. Move into closed session to consider two students' request for review of a UW-Madison decision, as permitted by s. 19.85(1)(a) and (g) *Wis. Stats.*
[Resolution 3.]
4. Adjourn

Approval of Increase in UW-Madison
Undergraduate Application Fee

BOARD OF REGENTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Resolution 2:

That, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, the Board of Regents approves UW-Madison's request to raise its undergraduate application fee to \$50 for applications for admission received on or after September 1, 2015.

UW-MADISON UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FEE

BACKGROUND

Recent legislative action allows the Board of Regents to set undergraduate application fees for each UW System institution. The University of Wisconsin-Madison requests that it be allowed to raise its undergraduate application fee to \$50 as of September 1, 2015. UW-Madison's current undergraduate application fee is \$44. The most recent application fee increase of \$9 was in September 2008.

The \$44 fee previously was set by state statute. The 2015-17 biennial budget bill repealed the \$44 amount in s. 36.11(3)(d), Wis. Stats., and created new language, effective July 14, 2015, requiring each UW institution to charge a uniform application fee to each group of applicants (e.g., undergraduates).

REQUESTED ACTION

Adoption of Resolution 2, approving an increase in UW-Madison's undergraduate application fee to \$50 as of September 1, 2015.

DISCUSSION

Regent policy requires each UW System campus to use a comprehensive review in evaluating applicants for admission. Demand for UW-Madison admission significantly outpaces the number of seats in each entering class, requiring a wide-ranging, multiple review process. Applicant processes include but are not limited to: I-20/visa processing; transfer credit evaluations; final transcript reviews; various new data collection tasks; new, additional direct-entry school/college admissions review; and an expanded volume of communications to applicants and families.

The costs of this comprehensive review and of finalizing an admission decision could be better supported by the application fee than is currently the case. UW-Madison's \$44 application fee does not sufficiently cover these costs. An application fee increase would further support the application evaluation process and the growing costs of implementing new processes in the Office of Admissions and Recruitment. All additional money from this fee increase will be returned to the Admissions office for additional staffing assistance.

Over 39,000 freshman and transfer candidates applied for admission to UW-Madison during 2014-15, and over 35,000 paid the \$44 application fee. Using these figures, a \$50 fee would generate an additional \$210,000. Even with a \$6 increase, UW-Madison's application fee would be more than \$7 below the Big Ten average.

UW-Madison is looking into the possibility of joining the Common Application, an undergraduate admission application that allows students to complete a single application for multiple universities and colleges. Currently, 533 schools – including a growing number of UW-Madison’s peer institutions – are on the Common Application. UW-Madison officials indicate that not participating in the Common Application will increasingly limit applications to the university from top students. If UW-Madison moves to the Common Application next year, the university would request a second fee increase in 2016 to cover the cost of processing additional applications and returning a portion of the fee to the Common Application organization.

RELATED REGENT POLICIES

NA