

DRAFT

**Charting a New Course for the UW System
Our Partnership with the State Working Group**

April 1, 2004, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present: Patricia Brady, Joseph Heim, Margaret Lewis, Donald Mash, Bill Messner, Don Nichols, Peggy Rosenzweig, Jesus Salas, Matt Sirinek, David Walsh

Members Absent: Mark Bugher, Clint Dederich, Melanie Schroeder

Committee Staff Present: David Miller, Kate Kail

Also Present: Sharon Wilhelm, Ginny Coombs

Walsh noted the loss of UW-River Falls Chancellor Ann Lydecker and welcomed the participation of Interim Chancellor Ginny Coombs. Walsh also noted David Beckwith's resignation from the committee. The working group approved the March minutes.

Walsh reviewed the group's three financial-aid policy goals and asked the group to review its recommendations regarding the university's 2005-07 budget request. Messner noted that the policy goals implied using loan forgiveness financial aid incentives, but that such incentives were not among the group's budget recommendations. He suggested that similar incentives have shown mixed results in other states, and the group should examine other programs before moving forward. Rosenzweig noted that the incentive suggestion did not include specific parameters and results will reflect how well a program is crafted. Several committee members noted that any program could be tailored to fit Wisconsin's most pressing needs. Nichols noted that incentive programs are proposed as solutions to "brain drain," but are unlikely to be effective if job vacancies for college-educated workers are unavailable. Others noted that the state has existing needs in several areas, including education, nursing and engineering.

Salas suggested the group did not need to specify how incentive programs could be targeted, but could note that there are areas of need. The working group unanimously agreed to amend its recommendation to read "Use targeted financial aid incentives to encourage UW graduates to work in Wisconsin after graduation, and incentivize retraining of Wisconsin citizens for key fields." Wilhelm agreed to investigate loan forgiveness programs in other states.

Mash noted that tuition revenue is the university's second-largest revenue source, after state funding, and that increasing tuition together with financial aid could eventually mean the university would require less GPR funding. Committee members also discussed other tuition options, including tying tuition to income level. The working group agreed to amend the last statement in its recommendations to read "...programs are recommended for consideration, and when appropriate, development, when the economic condition of the state stabilizes." The group noted that listing ideas did not necessarily constitute an endorsement.

The group also discussed various suggestions to improve communications among the university, the Legislature and the Governor. Members of the group noted that the suggestions largely pertained to communications at the system level, and suggested that Regents, both individually and as a group, could emulate campus strategies in formalizing communications. The committee also discussed ways to implement a series of public listening sessions about the upcoming budget and to share ideas with key leaders about how the university can help with the state's priorities.

Walsh indicated that the working group could convene again at the call of the chair. The committee adjourned at 12 noon.