

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Legislative Request Regarding Six-Year Pilot Funding Plan

BACKGROUND

With the additional funding provided through this pilot program, the UW will be able to create and improve the academic contributions of the University to our students and the community beyond. First, additional resources will provide competitive levels of compensation to faculty so we can recruit and retain THE very best faculty as they are the heart of what the University is able to do. In addition, new funds will directly improve the student experience: smaller classes, more opportunities for meaningful interaction with faculty in the process of new knowledge discovery in every discipline, better advising during school, better career advising, more high demand choices, and better research opportunities. Finally, we will be able to both reduce deferred facilities renewal and increase investment in information technology. The condition of our facilities currently limits the scope and quality of programs that can be delivered.

Since early 1990s, resources invested in the University's academic core began to lag behind the investments made at similar public research universities to the point that there is a difference of nearly \$4,000 per student. Over the last several years, the University has been discussing both the need and the means by which to cover this \$4,000 per student core funding gap in order to achieve program improvements. As discussed and approved by the Regents as a part of the budgets requests to the State for the 2007-09 biennium, the administration will be submitting policy legislation that would provide the structure on a pilot basis for addressing this need over the next six years.

Given the policy importance of this request, the following is presented for discussion as the intended elements of our request that will be submitted to the Governor on September 29th for her consideration in developing her budget and policy agenda for the 2007 legislative session.

SIX-YEAR FUNDING PILOT

The following are the elements of the legislation request:

Adopt the recommendation of the Governor's Washington Learns initiative to benchmark investments and outcomes relative to a new group of Global Challenge States and establish a new peer comparison group for the UW based on public research universities with medical centers located in the Global Challenge States,

Using the Global Challenge States as recommended by Washington Learns, establish a goal of achieving a level of core funding per student (state appropriations plus tuition and fees) equal to the average core funding level of this new benchmark group.

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Legislative Request Regarding Tuition Authority (continued p. 2)

Establish a pilot resource plan that will close the \$4,000 per student core funding gap over the next six years (goal is reached by FY 2013).

Tuition and fees, including undergraduate resident tuition, can be increased as needed to complement the state funding levels to move toward the total funding goal – annual funding goals will be set to gradually reach the average by FY 2013.

The UW will increase on-going need-based institutional financial aid in an amount at least equal to the percentage increase in annual undergraduate tuition (e.g. a 7% tuition increase will require a 7% increase in need-based financial aid; a 10% increase in tuition will require a 10% need-based increase in financial aid)

It is intended that this increased investment in institutional financial aid is in partnership with the State through continued support for need-based financial aid programs such as the State Need Grant

Accountability benchmarks will be established to measure progress on key goals including:

- Maintaining or increasing access to the UW by low income students as measured by Pell Grant awardees
- Maintaining or increasing the numbers of undergraduates that are first-generation college participants from their families
- Increasing student experiences with faculty in the discovery of new knowledge
- Increasing high demand choices for students
- Increasing graduation efficiency for bachelor degrees
- Reducing average time to degree for bachelor degrees
- Increasing information technology capabilities and decreasing facilities deferred renewal

The University will increase the availability of services that reach out to middle school and high schools to provide education and counseling to low income and

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Legislative Request Regarding Tuition Authority (continued p. 3)

first generation students and families so as to help them understand how they can get into college, afford it, and succeed.

The University will also increase incentives provided to students to finish college in a timely fashion by:

- Increasing tuition to the full cost of education for any credits taken beyond 125% of the minimum number necessary for the degree
- Exploring the potential for using an approach for setting tuition that would provide certainty for longer than one year – subject to continued state support

Provide for a review of this pilot project by the Institute for Public Policy and report to the Governor and Legislature every two years