



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #756

Student Success and Attainment (UW System)

[LFB 2019-21 Budget Summary: Page 438, #3]

CURRENT LAW

Most of the GPR funding for the UW System is provided in a general program operations appropriation with base level funding of \$876.9 million. There is a GPR debt service appropriation with base level funding of \$215.9 million and three other smaller GPR appropriations. Each year the UW System publishes an annual budget document (the Redbook) that allocates these state appropriations by spending purpose.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$20 million GPR in 2019-20 and \$25 million GPR in 2020-21 in the UW System's general program operations appropriation. Require the Board of Regents to allocate this funding to advance student success and attainment.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The administration in its executive budget document indicate that initiatives supported by this funding could include time to degree, advising, and participation in internships, undergraduate research, and community partnerships.

2. The UW System's 2019-21 agency budget submission requested \$25 million GPR in 2020-21 for capacity building initiatives. These initiatives included proposals by UW System institutions relating to developing Wisconsin's workforce as well as student success and attainment. Under the UW System's request, the workforce related items involved programming in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), nursing and healthcare, and business.

The student success component involved areas such as time to degree, advising, and student participation in high impact practices. In the UW System's performance reports, high impact practices include learning communities, service learning, research with faculty, internships or field experience, study abroad, and a culminating senior experience.

3. Each of the UW System institutions included examples of initiatives they would pursue under the capacity building item in the UW System's agency budget submission. Many of these are oriented towards the workforce related items noted above. However, a number of institutions identified initiatives relating to student success.

4. An example of a proposal relating to student success and attainment was presented by UW-Milwaukee. One of its items would create a central campus office of central advising (primarily for non-declared students and students using multicultural centers) with the goal of improving time to degree, reducing the number of credits taken to degree, increasing credit loads in students' first year, and increasing the number of students who declare a major by the end of the first year.

5. Another example of a proposal relating to student access and attainment was put forward by UW-La Crosse. An item included in its submission to the Board would centralize professional advising to provide students access to an advisor who is familiar with all academic programs and provide this advising in residence halls and increase tutoring positions to improve retention.

6. A third example of a request relating to student access and attainment was made by UW-Parkside, which would add staff to ensure that all students are assigned a professional staff advisor and add a data analytics platform to support targeted student advising. In addition, UW-Parkside identified the need for multicultural student affairs staff for underrepresented students as well as a four-week summer residential bridge program for underrepresented students to complete a three-credit general education course and remedial math requirements.

7. The examples described above are drawn from the capacity building proposal submitted in September 2018. Because that proposal had a broader scope than the Governor's budget recommendation, the UW System would likely need to have its institutions submit a new set of proposals that relate solely to student success and attainment, eliminating the workforce development component that was part of their agency budget request. Because some UW institutions would have to develop proposals relating to student success and UW System would assess these proposals and allocate this additional funding, the Committee may wish to provide \$25 million in 2020-21 for this purpose, which is when the funding would have been provided under the UW System's agency budget request. [Alternative 2]

8. Another option would be to fund the broader proposal by the UW System to allow this funding to be used for workforce development and student success and attainment. This would have the advantage of allowing the full range of capacity building initiatives already submitted by UW System institutions to be considered by the Board of Regents when allocating these funds. As an example, UW-Madison identified business education, computer science, engineering, and nursing as areas for which it would use additional funding under the UW System's capacity building request. Under this option, the Committee could provide \$25 million in 2020-21 with the intent of funding the UW System's agency budget request. [Alternative 3]

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide \$20,000,000 in 2019-20 and \$25,000,000 in 2020-21 in the UW System's general program operations appropriation. Require the Board of Regents to allocate this funding to advance student success and attainment

ALT 1	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$45,000,000	\$0

2. Provide \$25,000,000 in 2020-21 in the UW System's general program operations appropriation. Require the Board of Regents to allocate this funding to advance student success and attainment.

ALT 2	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$25,000,000	- \$20,000,000

3. Provide \$25,000,000 in 2020-21 in the UW System's general program operations appropriation for the purpose of funding the UW System's agency budget request for capacity building initiatives.

ALT 3	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$25,000,000	- \$20,000,000

4. Take no action.

ALT 4	Change to	
	Base	Bill
GPR	\$0	- \$45,000,000

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