Committee on Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid (CURAFA)

1. Annual Report for 2014-2017 Approved and submitted by CURAFA, March 19, 2018

I. The Committee on Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid (CURAFA) is a shared governance committee whose mission is to build a scholarly and diverse undergraduate student population by initiating, monitoring, and advising on policies related to student recruitment, admissions, and financial aid. In fall 2015, the University Committee suggested that the functions and composition of CURAFA as written in FPP 6.51 did not provide an effective means for accomplishing this mission. Namely, the previous functions did not place CURAFA as advisory to any specific entity on campus. Thus, in spring 2016, CURAFA met with multiple stakeholders across campus (ASM, Division of Enrollment Management, and people whose scholarship relates to CURAFA concerns) and used this input to generate revised membership and functions.

Committee function and charge

_FACULTY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, 6.51. until fall 2016_

A. MEMBERSHIP.
   1. Eight faculty members appointed for 4-year terms.
   2. Two academic staff members.
   3. Four students.
   4. The director of admissions, ex officio nonvoting.
   5. The director of Student Financial Services, ex officio nonvoting.

B. FUNCTIONS.
   1. Represents the faculty in regard to all aspects of the recruitment and admission of students and in regard to all aspects of financial aid for students except those handled by the faculties of individual colleges, schools, or departments.
   2. Makes recommendations to the faculty concerning the formulation of, or any substantive modification in, university policies on admission and financial aid.
   3. Makes recommendations to the faculty and administration concerning programs directed at enhancing the quality and diversity of the undergraduate student body.
   4. Advises the administration on and reviews the implementation and operation of these policies and programs.

_FPP 6.51. REVISIONS APPROVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE NOVEMBER 7, 2016_

A. MEMBERSHIP.
   1. Six faculty members appointed for 4-year terms.
   2. Two academic staff members appointed for 4-year terms.
   3. Two university staff members appointed for 4-year terms.
   4. Four students appointed for 1-year terms.
   5. The Vice Provost for Enrollment Management or designee, ex officio nonvoting.
   6. The Director of Admissions, ex officio nonvoting.
   7. The Director of Financial Aid, ex officio nonvoting.
   8. The Vice Provost for Diversity and Climate or designee, ex officio nonvoting.

The chair shall be elected from among the faculty members appointed pursuant to section A.1. Academic staff appointed pursuant to section A.2. may be elected to serve as co-chair. Chair and co-chair elections will be conducted in accordance with the Committee’s Statement of Policies and Procedures.

B. FUNCTIONS
   1. Advises and makes recommendations to the Division of Enrollment Management, and other administrative offices as appropriate, on all policies, procedures, and operations related to undergraduate recruitment, admissions and financial aid.
   2. Monitors, reviews, and evaluates new policies and procedures, as well as formulation, substantive modification, implementation, and outcomes of university policies and procedures related to undergraduate recruitment, admissions, and financial aid.
   3. Reports annually to the official governance bodies representing the faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students.
II. Activities

The “refreshed” committee as a whole met monthly during the academic year, at first addressing organizational concerns such as developing operating procedures, electing an academic staff co-chair, and formalizing data requests from ex officio members, and Academic Planning and Institutional Research (APIR).

Committee procedures were authored and approved. In future years, the committee plans to set priorities at the first fall meeting. Fall semester business may include: status and demographics of the incoming class; future year enrollment goals and recruitment plans; major changes in unit operations; and/or current enrollment financial aid data and metrics. Spring semester business may include issues such as review of the admissions application and recruitment materials, and review of the enrollment management plan. Subcommittees and working groups can form to work on designated priorities, reporting back to CURAFA each May or as needed.

- 10/26/2016: discussed feedback from the University Committee regarding seating an ex-officio non-voting member from APIR. CURAFA members unanimously supported an APIR staff member be present at its meetings. The committee also elected its first academic staff co-chair, Danielle Wampole.

- 11/22/2016: CURAFA met and was happy to hear that the proposed changed were approved by the Faculty Senate. In addition, André Phillips (then Acting Director of Admissions and Recruitment) led a discussion on recruitment strategies. Recruitment is focused on all areas of Wisconsin as well as the tri-state area of Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. All decisions are holistic. There was discussion regarding a student proposal to add a socio-economic question to the admissions application. Concerns regarding the graduation rates of 1st generation students were also expressed. Barriers are not only financial but also can be cultural. There is also declining population of high school students so it will be more challenging to recruit a sufficient number of HS graduates.

- 12/14/2016: CURAFA reviewed Office of Student Financial Aid challenges and opportunities, and the Division of Enrollment Management challenges and strategic goals, which were described as follows:

Office of Student Financial Aid challenges for 2016-2017:
1. Siloed and disparate awarding practices that do not align with recruitment and retention (key points of strategic plan).
2. Administratively burdensome federal regulations that are resource-consuming.
3. Sufficient funding on a committed and annual basis for both residents and non-residents.

Office of Student Financial Aid opportunities for 2016-2017
1. Technological advances in aid delivery and document collection. Docs can be collected exclusively electronically.
2. Elimination of additional verification practices—only those needed by Dept. of Education
3. Collaborative efforts with schools/colleges/departments to provide data to support awarding strategies: work in progress, to get data to units before they make decisions on aid

Division of Enrollment Management major challenges for 2016-2017:
1. The continued use of the UW System Application for the 2016–17 academic year has complicated the planning process, requiring an extensive comparison between the UW System Application and the Common Application. Additionally, numerous discussions with the Office of Legal Affairs have taken place to ensure our prospective students will not be disadvantaged based on the applicant tool utilized.
2. Other large, public universities that have begun using the Common Application have experienced a 10-28% increase in the volume of freshmen applications received in year one. For UW–Madison, this would be an additional 3,700-9,200 applications.

Division of Enrollment Management strategic goals for 2016-2017:
1. Enroll more high achieving students from Wisconsin high schools.
2. Increase recruitment and enrollment of transfer students from Wisconsin and out of state.
3. Expand recruiting opportunities in the state, nation, and world.
4. Identify new ways to showcase campus for prospective students.
5. Prepare for increased volume of work with adoption of Common Application.
6. Work with campus leaders to increase funding for need-based aid and scholarships.

• 2/23/2017: Based on these challenges/opportunities, the committee formed the following four working groups: Recruiting in Rural Wisconsin, High Achieving Student Enrollment, Scholarship Awarding Practices, and Increasing Under Represented Student Enrollment. Each working group was charged with exploring these topical areas and reporting back on their findings. Nick Hillman (faculty, School of Education-ELPA) and Alison Rice were elected co-chairs. CURAFA affirmed its commitment to students of color, low income students, and first generation students:

“The shared-governance Committee on Undergraduate Recruitment, Admissions, and Financial Aid at the University of Wisconsin-Madison engages with and advises campus leaders on a wide range of initiatives and practices affecting educational opportunity, affordability, and success. In this pursuit, CURAFA embodies the university’s land-grant mission of creating an inclusive and diverse learning environment where students can develop an understanding and appreciation for the complex cultural and physical worlds in which they live. This commitment is affirmed and advanced through policies, programs, and practices that advance the ideals of a pluralistic, multiracial, open, and democratic society. Therefore, CURAFA strives to affirm and enrich the educational experience for all prospective/current students, particularly those who identify as members of minority groups including students of color; gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender students; low-income or first-generation students; and religious or non-religious minorities.” Last updated 3/30/2017

• 3/30/2017: discussed the need to more closely align the timing of admissions decisions and aid packages. Derek Kindle (Director of Financial Aid) would like CURAFA to frame issues and topics and play a role in educating the campus and driving process improvements.

• 4/24/2017: State Relations specialist Crystal Potts presented on the State budget. Tuition cuts, campus outcome metrics, state pay plan, and more financial aid were the important points bearing on the university’s ability to recruit and retain students, both in-state and nationally.

• 4/11/2017: committee members were debriefed on the Admissions Director search and Steve Hahn gave an enrollment management update and presented plans for improvement. In particular expanding national recruitment; streamlining transfer credit evaluation; improving strategic communication and evaluating application tools. Derek Kindle reported that OFSA won a campus award for administrative improvements for condensing the time between admissions and financial notifications; strengthening outreach efforts; expanding counseling roles. Steve Hahn asked CURAFA for assistance next year to work on reviewing the transfer application; reviewing the coalition application; reviewing new timelines that accelerate campus processes; and advocating that students receive one bill for tuition, fees, and campus housing.
Incoming Freshmen Data and Transfer Student Data

Data Sources:
InfoAccess Data Warehouse: Applicant records maintained by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment and census date enrollment records maintained by the Office of the Registrar. Admissions and Financial Aid (Data Digest) [https://apir.wisc.edu/data-digest/](https://apir.wisc.edu/data-digest/). Please read footnotes.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen Applicants</td>
<td>30,464</td>
<td>32,780</td>
<td>32,887</td>
<td>35,615</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshmen Admits</td>
<td>14,481</td>
<td>16,121</td>
<td>17,304</td>
<td>19,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freshmen Enrolled</td>
<td>6,264</td>
<td>6,270</td>
<td>6,430</td>
<td>6,610</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admissions Rate</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>49.2%</td>
<td>52.6%</td>
<td>53.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yield Rate (％ of admitted students who enroll)</td>
<td>43.3%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>37.2%</td>
<td>34.5%</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WI Resident Applicants Enrolled</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>3,617</td>
<td>3,671</td>
<td>3,746</td>
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<tr>
<td>％ of Admitted Applicants Who Enrolled</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>64.5</td>
<td>64.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minn Compact Applicants Enrolled</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>594</td>
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<tr>
<td>％ of Admitted Applicants Who Enrolled</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>39.8</td>
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<td>Non Resident Applicants Domestic</td>
<td>1,421</td>
<td>1,544</td>
<td>1,563</td>
<td>1,723</td>
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<tr>
<td>％ of Admitted Applicants Who Enrolled</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Resident Applicants Intl</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>％ of Admitted Applicants Who Enrolled</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>21.9</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>327</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or more races</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaiian/Pacific</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>443</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>4,854</td>
<td>4,755</td>
<td>4,694</td>
<td>4,736</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intl</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>554</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>6,264</td>
<td>6,270</td>
<td>6,430</td>
<td>6,610</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicants</td>
<td>4,377</td>
<td>4,724</td>
<td>5,487</td>
<td>6,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted</td>
<td>2,022</td>
<td>2,024</td>
<td>2,393</td>
<td>2,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enrolled</td>
<td>1,052</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>1,072</td>
<td>1,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>％ Enrolled New Freshmen</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>17.2</td>
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### New Transfer Students Enrolled By Residency

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WI Resident</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota Compact</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Domestic</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Internat</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>770</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Percent Non-Resident</strong></td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
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### Undergraduate Full-Time On Campus

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Attendance WI Resident</td>
<td>$24,222</td>
<td>$24,666</td>
<td>$24,735</td>
<td>$25,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Attendance Non Resident</td>
<td>$40,472</td>
<td>$40,716</td>
<td>$44,585</td>
<td>$48,144</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Financial Need

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Undergraduates receiving Pell grants</td>
<td>4,844</td>
<td>4,615</td>
<td>4,315</td>
<td>4,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of Students Receiving Some Form of Need Based Aid</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>36.4</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% UG Completing Financial Aid App</td>
<td>58.2</td>
<td>57.7</td>
<td>54.2</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Undergraduates receiving aid</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>59.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Debt of Graduating UG</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>49.6</td>
<td>46.6</td>
<td>46.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Average Need-WI Res</td>
<td>$15,135</td>
<td>$15,238</td>
<td>$15,306</td>
<td>$15,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Average Need-NonRes</td>
<td>$22,646</td>
<td>$22,582</td>
<td>$24,125</td>
<td>$26,813</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New Transfer Applicants, Admits, and Enrollments in Fall Semesters

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applicants</td>
<td>4,255</td>
<td>4,620</td>
<td>4,352</td>
<td>3,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admits</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>2,149</td>
<td>2,042</td>
<td>1,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled</td>
<td>770</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>1,091</td>
<td>1,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admit Rate</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>46.9%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yield Rate</td>
<td>62.4%</td>
<td>59.1%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
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### Tuition Residency of Enrolled Transfer Students

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Res Domestic</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Res Intl</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>248</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnes Compact</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>WI Resident</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>693</td>
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### First Generation** Transfer Students Enrolled

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled Fall</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Race/ethnicity categories and reporting methodology represent federal reporting categories and methodology. A major change in both data collection and reporting occurred in 2008. Data before and after are not directly comparable. Prior to 2008 students were only able to indicate a single race/ethnic category and that is the category that is reported. Starting in 2008, revised Federal guidelines allowed students to indicate multiple race/ethnic identities. These guidelines stipulate that all domestic (non-international) students who indicate Hispanic ethnicity should be reported as Hispanic, regardless of other racial information provided. Non-Hispanic domestic students who indicate more than one race are reported in the "2 or more races" category. All other non-Hispanic domestic students who indicated a single race are reported in that category.

Targeted minority and minority counts are provided because they cannot be derived from the race/ethnic categories alone. Targeted minorities are domestic students who are Hispanic/Latino, African American, American Indian, or Southeast Asian (Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian). Minority includes all the targeted categories as well as students who are other Asians (non Southeast Asian) and Native Hawaiians.

**First generation means neither of the student’s parents has a four year college degree: collection for all undergraduates was not fully implemented until 2009.

Committee Membership

**2017-2018**

**Faculty [term ends]**
Nick Hillman, Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis [2018], Co-Chair
Eric Grodsky, Sociology [2020]
Rachelle Winkle-Wagner, Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis [2020]
Alberta Gloria, Counseling Psychology [2021]
Duncan Carlsmith, Physics, [2021]
Dante Fratta, Civil & Environmental Engineering [2021]

**Academic Staff [term ends]**
E Alison Rice, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2018], Co-Chair
Tracy Mores, CFYE, [2020]
University Staff [term ends]
Shuwen Li, Human Resources [2019]
Julie Garvin, Soil Science [2021]
Tom Frank, Horticulture [2020], alt

**Ex officio, Non-voting**
Steve Hahn, Enrollment Management
Sherri Charleston, designee, Chief Diversity Officer
Andre Phillips, Admissions
Derek Kindle, Student Financial Aid

**Students [terms end 2018]**
James Elkin
Sam Park
Kesong Cao
Chrissy Ramakrishnan

**2016-2017**

**Faculty**
Nick Hillman, Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis [2018]
Kristyn Masters, Biomedical Engineering [2017], Co-Chair
Anita Thompson, Biological Systems Engineering [2017]
Michael Thornton, Afro-American Studies [2017]
Eric Grodsky, Sociology [2020]
Rachelle Winkle-Wagner, ELPA [2020]
Daniel Kapust, Political Science [2018]

**Academic Staff**
E Alison Rice, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2018]
Danielle Wampole, LAW Admissions [to January 2017], Co-Chair

**University Staff**
Shuwen Li, Human Resources [2019]
Julie Garvin, Soil Science [2021]
Tom Frank, Horticulture [2020], alt

**Students**
Alison Montenegro
Carmen Gosey
Madison Laning
Samuel Park

**Ex officio, Non-voting**
Steve Hahn, Enrollment Management
Torsheika Maddox, designee, Chief Diversity Officer
Andre Phillips, Admissions
Derek Kindle, Student Financial Aid

**Friend**
Clare Huhn, Academic Planning and Institutional Research
2015-2016
Faculty
Kristyn Masters, Biomedical Engineering [2017], chair
Anita Thompson, Biological Systems Engineering [2017]
Michael Thornton, Afro-American Studies [2017]
Kent Weigel, Dairy Science [2016], Chair
Rachelle Winkle-Wagner, ELPA [2016]
Daniel Kapust, Political Science [2018]

Academic Staff
E Alison Rice, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2018]
Danielle Wampole, LAW Admissions [2017]

Students
Derek Field
Alison Montenegro
Samuel Park
Andrew Stoiber

Ex officio, Non-voting
Adele Brumfield, Admissions
Terry Ruzicka, Student Financial Services

Consultants
Clare Huhn, APIR
Torsheika Maddox, designee, Chief Diversity Officer

2014-2015
Faculty
Kent Wiegel, Dairy Science [2016]
Kristyn Masters, Biomedical Engineering [2017]
Anita Thompson, Biological Systems Engineering [2017]
Christina Kendziorski, Biostat & Med Informatics [2016], chair
Michael Thornton, Afro-American Studies [2017]
Nancy Kendall, Ed Policy Studies [2018]

Academic Staff
E Alison Rice, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2018]
Danielle Wampole, LAW Admissions [to 1/2017], Co-Chair

University Staff
Shuwen Li, Human Resources [2019]
Julie Garvin, Soil Science [2021]
Tom Frank, Horticulture [2020], alt

Students
Brooke Evans
Derek Field
Madison Laning

Ex officio, Non-voting
Adele Brumfield, Admissions
Susan Fischer, Student Financial Aid

2013-2014
Faculty
Kristyn Masters, Biomedical Engineering [2017]
Anita Thompson, Biological Systems Engineering [2017]
Michael Thornton, Afro-American Studies [2017]
Kent Weigel, Dairy Science [2016], Chair

Academic Staff
Jose Madera, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2014]
E. Alison Rice, L&S Student Academic Affairs [2015]

Students
Derek Field
Thomas Gierok
Joshua Kasuboski
Andrew Stoiber

Ex officio, Non-voting
Adele Brumfield, Admissions
Susan Fischer, Student Financial Services

Consultants
Clare Huhn, APIR
Patrick Sims, Interim Vice Provost for Diversity & Climate
On February 20, 2018, Chancellor Blank announced Bucky’s Tuition Promise, a new financial aid program designed to make the University of Wisconsin-Madison more affordable for students. To be eligible, students must be: Wisconsin residents; incoming first-year or transfer students; and have total Adjusted Gross Income of $56,000 or less. Recipients would have their tuition and fees fully covered by financial aid, leaving only non-tuition expenses (e.g., books, supplies, room, board, etc.) in their aid budgets.

With tuition and fees surpassing $10,000 per year, CURAFA commends the university’s commitment to remove this significant financial barrier for first-year and transfer students who are from low and moderate income backgrounds. These are the exact students whose decisions to apply and enroll at UW-Madison will be most affected by tuition charges. Because the transfer pathway is sometimes more appealing for both rural students and students of color, Bucky’s Tuition Promise should help the university recruit and retain these very students. Additionally, by keeping the eligibility criteria simple and clear, it should reduce informational and administrative barriers that too often impede progress for low-income students and students of color. For example, students already have to fill out the FAFSA and potentially an application fee waiver, so being automatically considered for this program is extremely efficient for low income families in Wisconsin. We believe the new program will enhance outreach efforts designed to make campus become more racially, ethnically, and economically representative of the state.

This new program is a step in the right direction, and to stay committed to making UW-Madison accessible and affordable for the state’s lowest-income residents, CURAFA recommends the following:

**Cover non-tuition expenses for eligible students.** Bucky’s Tuition Promise is a “last dollar” scholarship program, meaning it covers students’ tuition bills only after federal, state, and other institutional financial aid is applied. It currently does not cover non-tuition expenses like room, board, books, and supplies, which account for 59% of the total cost of attendance for in-state students. Low-income students are substantially affected by non-tuition expenses, so reducing these barriers should simultaneously improve a sense of welcome and retention while also reducing debt for low-income students. Therefore, CURAFA recommends *any new funds made available to Bucky’s Tuition Promise should be used to meet students’ tuition and non-tuition expenses.*

**Continue to base eligibility on state median family income.** The median household income for Wisconsin is currently around $56,000. It is well documented in the research literature that targeting resources to lower-income students is an efficient and effective way to improve enrollment and retention. Since lower-income students are most responsive to changes in price, targeting aid in this direction should make Bucky’s Tuition Promise a cost-effective strategy for improving access and success. Doing so should also enhance the university’s commitment to recruit and retain rural students and under-represented minority students. Therefore, CURAFA recommends *the university should maintain its commitment to supporting the state’s lowest income residents.*
Enhance and continue strong support of student services. There is a growing body of research finding that multifaceted financial aid programs – those that combine financial aid with student support services – have even stronger effects than financial aid alone.ii Student support services come in a variety of forms including: summer advising; enhanced counseling; college coaching; peer mentoring; community-building activities; and proactive efforts to navigate college. Depending on the needs of our students, CURAFA believes such non-financial support is important for promoting educational inclusion, improving campus climate, and bolstering student success. This is particularly relevant for first-year and transfer students who are new to campus and often need additional support to navigate their campus transition. Therefore, CURAFA recommends the university should assess the range of additional needs and strategies for matching eligible students with relevant and effective student support services.

CURAFA strongly supports the University’s current commitment to financially support low and moderate-income students in Wisconsin and has identified some further recommendations for Bucky’s Tuition Promise. Moving forward we believe this program must focus on:

1. Allocating any new funds made available to Bucky’s Tuition Promise to meet students’ tuition and non-tuition expenses.

2. Maintaining its commitment to supporting the state’s lowest income residents by continuing to base eligibility on state median family income.

3. Identifying and coupling effective academic and social support services to the award program for eligible students.

These enhancements will solidify UW Madison’s commitment to supporting diversity as well as provide the students of Wisconsin with the support they need and deserve.

Endnotes

i See for example:


ii See for example:
