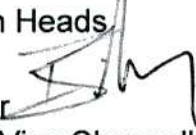





July 31, 2009

TO: Deans and Administrative Division Heads

FROM: Carolyn "Biddy" Martin, Chancellor 
Paul M. DeLuca, Jr., Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs 

RE: **Madison Initiative for Undergraduates: Request for Proposals**

We are writing to invite proposals for the use of funds that will be generated by the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates. As you know, the purpose of the initiative is to improve access to the university, while enhancing the quality of the institution and the value of our degree. Our goals include: 1) significantly increasing need-based financial aid; 2) adding outstanding faculty and instructional resources so we can eliminate bottlenecks and ensure that more students can get into high-demand courses and majors; 3) enhancing our students' overall educational experience through curricular and pedagogical innovation and increased student services, particularly in academic and career advising.

Half the revenue we receive from the new tuition differential will be used for need-based financial aid. The remainder will be used to add faculty, instructional support and enhancements to undergraduate education and services. For that reason, proposals for new faculty positions and for increased instructional support should aim at having a significant impact on undergraduate education and overall institutional quality. They should include evidence that the area in question currently fails to meet student demand or serve students' curricular needs and is well aligned with the priorities in the university's strategic framework. In addition, proposals must demonstrate that the hiring unit has taken steps or has a plan to take pro-active steps to identify and build a diverse prospective pool of candidates, prior to securing authorization to search. Units' plans should specifically address the goal of increasing the number of core undergraduate courses taught by tenured and/or tenure-track faculty. Ideally, plans will also outline a process for introducing curricular and pedagogical innovation. Departments and programs should not assume that the teaching responsibilities of faculty hired with MIU funds would differ from those of other faculty. Successful requests for new faculty positions will link new positions to effective, unit-wide plans to improve undergraduate education. Deans should explain how progress is to be measured and demonstrated. We ask all deans and heads of administrative units to make this call for proposals widely known. We also strongly encourage cross-college proposals, which could be submitted by one or more than one dean.

Office of the Chancellor

Bascom Hall University of Wisconsin-Madison 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706
608/262-9946 Fax: 608/262-8333 TTY: 608/263-2473

Proposals that are aimed primarily at support for curricular or pedagogical innovation may include requests for instructional resources, including faculty positions.

Finally, we seek creative approaches to addressing key aspects of undergraduate student education and services. Proposals should show how the program or programs will succeed in addressing institutional needs and will have an impact on a significant and measurable number of students. Proposals that have cross-college reach will be especially welcome, as will proposals that suggest new or particularly effective ways of integrating scholarly and scientific advances into the undergraduate curriculum, not only at the level of content, but also delivery. Our overall goal is to enhance what our students learn while they are here and what they take with them when they graduate, by building faculty strength and improving education.

While funding decisions will be based on the strength of the proposals we receive and their potential for addressing existing challenges, we are eager to invest in plans that have the potential for significant impact. This means that your proposals should aspire to more than the filling of gaps. They should aim to be transformative. We would prefer to support fewer outstanding proposals than to spread ourselves too thin.

Over the summer we established an oversight committee, charged with making recommendations to the chancellor for the allocation of funds. In addition, ASM has proposed a student-only subcommittee, which would focus its attention on student services, broadly conceived, and work in tandem with the larger oversight committee. The oversight committee, chaired by the provost, held its first meeting on Thursday, July 30.

We will provide more information about timing and deadlines for proposals as we proceed. In the case of faculty hiring, however, it will be necessary and desirable to authorize a limited number of searches before the end of the summer or at the beginning of the Fall semester. We will use data that was gathered during the development and approval process for the MIU to assess proposals for faculty hiring in areas of obvious and immediate need. During the process of developing proposals, please engage the Provost Office as needed for assistance, guidance, and exploration issues associated with cross program/college/school proposals. Please direct your questions about this call for proposals to provost@provost.wisc.edu and consult the web site for the Madison Initiative for Undergraduates (www.madisoninitiative.wisc.edu) for more information about the history and purposes of the MIU.