Response to Governors Budget Proposal

Tuition:

College tuition is still not affordable for working families.

Tuition would increase 14% over the next 2 years

- Tuition went up 37% in the last budget, and with the current proposal would bring a 4 year tuition increase of 51%.
- In the 2002-2003 academic year a student at Madison would have been paying $3,854 a year, by 2006-2007 a student will be paying $6,016
  - Milwaukee 02-03= $3,738, 06-07=$5,883
  - Comprehensives 02-03= $3,000, 06-07= $4,580
  - Colleges 02-03= $2,700, 06-07=4,280
- Students at Madison would be facing a cumulative increase of $1,128 over the biennium. $1,105 for UW-Milwaukee, $860 for Comprehensives, and $860 for Colleges.
- Tuition increases equate to a tax on education. Although there is a proposed freeze on property taxes, tuition will be increased, betraying the promise and pricing out working families.

Financial Aid:

Proposal brings first year promises, but second year woes

The budget proposal increases unmet need $117-$211

- In the 1st year (2005-06), the increase in the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG) would cover the projected tuition increase.
- In the 2nd year (2005-06), the WHEG would increase $183, but Madison tuition would increase $394, Milwaukee $385, Comprehensives $300, and Colleges $300.
- This goes along with the proposed elimination of decrease in federal financial aid programs:
  1) Leveraging Educational Assistance Grants (Elimination)
  2) Perkins Loans (Elimination)
  3) GEAR UP (Elimination)
  4) TRIO (Talent Search, Upward Bound, Student Services, etc) (55% decrease)
And 0% increases for other federal financial aid programs, such as:
  1) Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
  2) Federal Work Study
Administrative Cuts:
Administrative cuts do not protect critical student services

- The proposal calls for UW System to eliminate 200 administrator positions, which nets $65 million in savings.
- There are multiple definitions of administrator, which makes it difficult to determine which positions are “real” administrators and which actually provide direct services to students.
- Positions such as academic advisors, financial aid counselors and tutors could be cut if any portion of their job description is administrative.
- The $65 million will be re-invested into the base budget, helping to cover the costs of student priorities such as additional faculty.

Disability Services:
Budget proposal cuts basic accommodations

- Students requested $2.1 million to ensure that all UW students would have the services necessary to be active participants in their classes.
- The proposal does not fund basic accommodations for UW students with disabilities.
- Services for students with disabilities used to be funded by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR).
- This is not a new problem; the state had complete knowledge that DVR has been reducing its support over the last several years and intended to retract all financial support.
- 2004-05 is the last academic year that DVR will fund services for UW students.

Funded Student Priorities:

- Shared Revenue is fully funded
  - This insures that UW Colleges will continue to have their buildings adequately maintained.
- Increasing the state tax deduction for university tuition, indexed in the future.
  - This will help reduce the financial burden for some families.
- Authorizing the system to charge resident tuition for undocumented persons who meet certain residency requirements.
  - Currently qualified undocumented immigrant students are unable to attend college due to cost. Right now immigrant students have to pay out of state tuition, even though they have met the residency requirements by the state.
- $1 million to fund domestic partner benefits for university employees
  - A measure to remain competitive among the peer institutions and provide equality for all employees.
- $5 million to help retain quality faculty
  - Campuses across the state have been loosing their best professors to other places that can provide better pay and benefits, this initiative is a measure to help retain these star faculty members.
- 125 restored faculty positions
  - Will help increase course availability, decrease student to faculty ratio, and allow students to graduate in a timely matter.
- No Auxiliary funds were raided.

United Council of UW Students, February 2005