That, upon the recommendation of the President of the University of Wisconsin System and the students and Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, the Board of Regents approves the differential tuition rates for all UW-La Crosse students beginning in the Fall Semester of 2003-04.
DIFFERENTIAL TUITION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INITIATIVES
UW-La Crosse

In its *Study of the UW System in the 21st Century*, the Board of Regents approved flexibilities for tuition setting. UW-La Crosse proposes establishing a special tuition for Academic Excellence Initiatives.

The Board is asked to approve a differential tuition for all students at UW-La Crosse beginning in the 2003-2004 academic year. Tuition for all students will increase $20.00 per semester ($40.00 per year) the first year. This amount will increase to $26.00 per semester ($52.00 per year) in 2004-2005 and continue to increase annually in flat rate amounts equal to a 3 percent increase per year. The program will be evaluated annually. This differential fee will be reevaluated for continued academic excellence support, in consultation with student government, after Spring Semester of 2008.

UW-La Crosse proposes to raise all students' tuition rates $40.00 more than the full-time rate in the next academic year (2003-2004) and increase this to $52.00 for the following academic year (2004-2005). Rate increases for 2005-2006 through 2007-2008 would be in pre-determined flat rates calculated at an increment of 3 percent above the previous year's amount. The program will come up for review and reauthorization following the 2007-2008 academic year. The estimated revenue for the first year (2003-2004) is $297,500 and for the second year (2004-2005) is $387,500.

UW-La Crosse has gone through an extensive strategic planning process in the last year and a half. The Strategic Planning and Budget Committee is expected to present the results of that effort to the Chancellor by the summer of 2003. Among the directions identified in the strategic planning process are:

- **Academics**, including a goal to "Create a culture of teaching, scholarship and creative activity, and service conducive to excellence and quality,"
- **Student Development**, including a goal to "Expand and enhance advising and mentoring programs,"
- **Diversity**, including a goal to "Build a campus culture that fosters recruitment and retention of a diverse administration, faculty, staff and students," and
- **Globalization**, including a goal to "Develop opportunities for global interaction."
The proposed student differential tuition is aligned with the strategic plan in that it will provide direct financial support for the following four areas:

1. **Undergraduate Research.** The current UW-La Crosse undergraduate research program will have an additional funding period as a result of these additional resources. Students would receive stipends for undergraduate research projects conducted during the summer term. The result will be more student participation in this important academic endeavor.

2. **Advising.** Students will receive a significant increase in available advising hours as a result of this funding. Professional and peer advisors would be added to support student advising needs particularly for those who are "undecided" in their majors. All students, however, will have access to and benefit from these additional advising hours. The result will be reduced time to degree and fewer overall average credits taken by students.

3. **Diversity.** This funding will add to the campus efforts in recruiting and retaining a more diverse student body. Additional funds will support a diversity resource center. The outcome will be a more diverse and more prepared student body for the world they are a part of.

4. **International Education.** These funds will provide stipends for international students coming to UW-La Crosse and for those students studying overseas. The individuals receiving the stipends will participate in formal activities sharing their cultural backgrounds and experiences with UW-La Crosse students. This will result in more international students coming to UW-La Crosse, more students studying abroad, and in a greater appreciation and understanding of cultures around the world. The outcome will be better prepared students for the global community.

The UW-La Crosse Student Senate approved a resolution for this differential tuition proposal by a 23-6-4 vote. Students will comprise a majority of members of an oversight committee that will establish priorities, allocate funds to those priorities, and conduct program evaluations. Each year, there will be progress reports for the Student Senate and university on the previous year's activities.

**RELATED REGENT POLICIES**

*Study of the UW System in the 21st Century (June 1996)*