

A Holistic Approach to Undergraduate Admissions

The goal of our undergraduate admissions policy should be to facilitate the enrollment, retention and graduation of a qualified, diverse student body. To help achieve this goal, our admissions process should consider a wide range of factors that include both quantitative and qualitative credentials. These factors must be considered as part of a holistic review of the applicants that is consistent with federal and state law as well as Board of Regent policy.

To help us study and formulate principles and guidelines that would facilitate this goal, we are convening a systemwide advisory group to review our undergraduate admissions process and recommend ways to ensure that our admissions practices comply with the law and facilitate our goal of enrolling a qualified, diverse student body. Specifically, the advisory group will address the following questions:

- What are the components of a holistic review, what applicant information would support such a review, and how should that information be utilized?
- What changes may need to be made in our admission application that would assist institutions in conducting a holistic review that incorporates diversity and other qualitative factors into the admission equation? (For example, one change to be considered will be how students identify their race/ethnicity on the admission application.)
How should any changes in our admission process be best communicated with relevant internal and external constituencies?

The specific timeframe for completing this assignment should be set by the advisory group with the goal of providing sufficient time for institutions to finalize their admission process for students admitted for the 2007-2008 academic year. We would expect that appropriate governance and constituent groups be consulted as part of the advisory group's deliberations. We have asked Larry Rubin, Assistant Vice President, to chair the group and keep us informed of the group's progress.

UW System Admissions Advisory Group
2005-2006

Kimberly Barrett
Associate Vice Chancellor
Student Development & Diversity
UW-Eau Claire
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
715-836-5992
Fax: 715-836-5911
barretka@uwec.edu

Deborah Furlong
Policy & Planning Analyst
Planning & Budget
UW-Green Bay
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54311-7001
920-465-2374
Fax: 920-465-2946
furlongd@uwgb.edu

Joseph Heim
Professor
Political Science/Public Adm.
UW-La Crosse
425D Wimberly Hall
1725 State Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
608-785-6640
Fax: 608-785-8731
heim.jose@uwlax.edu

Bridgette Johnson
Interim Assistant to the Chancellor
Equity & Diversity
UW-Parkside
PO Box 2000
Kenosha, WI 53141
262-595-2345
Fax: 262-595-2630
bridgette.johnson@uwp.edu

Stephen McKellis
Director
Admissions
UW-Whitewater
800 W. Main Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
262-472-1512
Fax: 262-472-1515
mckellis@uww.edu

Denny Roark
Senior Student Services Coordinator
HELP – Learning Innovations
505 S. Rosa Road
Madison, WI 53719
608-263-4567
Fax: 608-263-0544
roark@learn.uwsa.edu

Hope Salas
Student
Multi-Cultural Resource Center Director
Student Association Office
186 South Hall
UW-Marathon County
518 South 7th Avenue
Wausau, WI 54401
715-261-6244
mrc@uwc.edu

Robert Seltzer
Director
Admissions
UW-Madison
360 Armory & Gymnasium
716 Langdon Street
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-0464
Fax: 608-262-7706
rseltzer@admissions.wisc.edu

Steven Tallant
Associate Vice Chancellor
Academic Affairs
UW-Eau Claire
105 Garfield Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004
715-836-2637
Fax: 715-836-2902
tallansh@uwec.edu

Alan Tuchtenhagen
Director
Admissions
UW-River Falls
112 South Hall
410 S. 3rd St.
River Falls, WI 54022-5013
715-425-3500
Fax: 715-425-0676
alan.j.tuchtenhagen@uwrf.edu

Beth Weckmueller
Director
Enrollment Services
UW-Milwaukee
222 Mellencamp Hall
2310 E. Hartford Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-229-6164
Fax: 414-229-6940
bethw@uwm.edu

Gail Bergman
Senior Policy & Planning Analyst
Office of Policy Analysis & Research
UW System Administration
1646 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-6718
Fax: 608-263-2046
gbergman@uwsa.edu

Anne Bilder
System Legal Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
UW System Administration
1850 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-265-3094
Fax: 608-263-3487
abilder@uwsa.edu

Larry Rubin
Assistant Vice President
Academic & Student Services
UW System Administration
1604 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-6717
Fax: 608-263-2046
lrubin@uwsa.edu

Janice Sheppard
Academic Planner
Academic & Student Services
UW System Administration
1636 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-5563
Fax: 608-263-2046
jsheppard@uwsa.edu

Vicki Washington
Interim Assistant Vice President
Office of Academic Diversity & Development
UW System Administration
1660 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-8636
Fax: 608-262-9701
vwashington@uwsa.edu

Sharon Wilhelm
Interim Associate Vice President
Office of Policy Analysis & Research
UW System Administration
1544 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
608-262-3905
Fax: 608-265-3175
swilhelm@uwsa.edu

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