

Resolution to Endorse the UW System's Commitment to Diversity in Phase II of Plan 2008

Resolution 8970: WHEREAS, it is fundamental to the statutory mission of the University of Wisconsin System to enable students of all ages, backgrounds and levels of income to participate in the search for knowledge and individual development, to foster diversity of educational opportunity, and to develop human resources, as set forth in s. 36.01(1), Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, achieving the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body advances the core academic and governmental goals of improving all students' intellectual growth, readiness for citizenship, and preparation for successful participation in and contribution to the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System and its institutions have long been committed to ensuring that all students receive the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body, and this commitment is reflected in an array of programs, ranging from admissions policies to the University of Wisconsin System *Plan 2008*; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, in *Grutter v. Bollinger* and *Gratz v. Bollinger*, has recognized that colleges and universities have a compelling interest in securing the benefits of educational diversity for all students;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System reaffirms its compelling interest in and commitment to achieving educational diversity at all UW System institutions, through an array of programs including *Plan 2008*, in order to fully develop advanced human potential, the jobs that employ that potential, and the flourishing of communities that sustain it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System recommends that the following steps be taken by the University of Wisconsin System Administration and the institutions:

1. Adopt systemwide a diversity accountability report card with measurable goals that will track the progress made by UWSA and the institutions in closing the achievement gap between UW students of color and white students; and this will be done by June 2005.
2. Institute a systemwide Diversity Award, similar to the Regents Teaching Excellence Award, recognizing excellence in diversity programming or achievement.
3. Working with the Board, the President will refocus the evaluation of Chancellors with respect to their work on diversity on progress with Plan 2008 Phase II and integration with institutional mission. Evaluation of the President also will incorporate progress on Plan 2008 Phase II.
4. Subsequent changes to campus Phase II plans must describe their accountability process, including incentives and penalties for success and failure to close the achievement gap.