2019-21 UWM Budget Talking Points

Remarks to the JFC are limited to 2 minutes for individuals and 5 minutes for groups (3+).

- Acknowledge the group (Joint Finance Committee) and introduce yourself.
- Show support for the Board of Regents proposed budget.
- Thank the committee at the end of your testimony.
- Email a copy of your testimony to BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov

UWM’s total enrollment is 27,466 with students from all 72 Wisconsin counties.

- Over 1,000 veterans enrolled, more than any other Wisconsin university
- 37% of undergraduates are first-generation college students
- 30% are students of color

UWM has a $1.5 billion economic impact on Wisconsin

- Partnerships with 3,900 businesses, nonprofits and other organizations

Higher education is vital to growing regional & state talent pipelines, improving lives & providing Wisconsinites opportunities to earn higher wages.

- 185,000+ alumni
- 80% of UWM graduates live and work in Wisconsin
- UWM produces 5,000+ graduates annually
- Our region has a 100k employee shortage, with a substantial number of jobs requiring higher education.

Proposed investments in capacity-building initiatives of high-demand fields can help position state for a brighter future.

- Capacity building initiatives include Nursing, Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Water
- UWM has the largest nursing program in Wisconsin
- UWM has the only school in North America dedicated solely to freshwater sciences

Fund the freeze

- Support the proposed GPR increase of $127 million over two years
- Keeping college affordable is a top priority
• UWM is administratively lean & fiscally responsible, even in the face of challenging national trends and recent budget cuts.

Compensation Request, preserving faculty/R1 status
• UWM is one of the nation’s top 130 research universities.
• Our ability to sustain R1 will be directly related to the size of our faculty, which is down more than 13% since 2015.
• UWM supports an employee compensation plan to retain the excellent faculty and staff.
• We ask for full funding of the proposed 3% increase to help close the tremendous pay gap with our peers.

Chemistry Building & Central Utilities Extension
Estimated Cost: Total: $129.535M GFSB (“general fund supported borrowing”; borrowing via state tax funds)
• Replaces the existing obsolete chemistry building and extends the central utilities to support the building
• Mechanical systems are starting to fail
• Chemistry is a “central science” that supports all STEM fields at UWM, including:
  o Engineering, Nursing, Health Sciences, Physics, Biosciences
• Approximately 4,700 students per year with 19,000 credit hours
  o 2,300 students per year in lab (using AY18-19).
• At $9.4B the chemical industry is 6th largest manufacturing industry in Wisconsin
• Building condition impacts Chemistry accreditation and threatens many other STEM fields

Student Union Renovation Phase 1
Estimated Cost: Total of $40.7M
• $35M PRSB (“program revenue supported borrowing”; borrowing via student fees)
• $5.723M PR Cash (“program revenue” cash accumulated via student fees)
• Current Project: Major Repairs / Limited Renovation
• Student Union Serves 22,000 people per day
• Building is rated “D” for Function and “F” for Condition
• All other UW System student unions have been renovated and have “A” or “B” ratings
• No additional student fee required – there is an existing segregated fee for ongoing capital repairs of the Union that will be repurposed to finance this project, a more efficient use of the funds as the needs will be addressed at once

Klotsche Annex
Estimated Cost: Total of $7M PR Cash
• Project will be paid with cash – no bonding
• Recreation space is 42% below national guidelines
• Project will relieve recreational space currently used by Athletics
• Will more efficiently serve small space uses, opening up arena for large space uses