University of Wisconsin
– Eau Claire
Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition
Bylaws

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Article 1: Purpose
These bylaws are established to ensure the transparent, inclusive, and orderly implementation of the Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition Program. The bylaws govern the processes to be used and the decision-making authority for each party involved in the Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition Program.

Article 2: Criteria and Call for Proposal
Section 2.01: Establishing Criteria
The Student Senate may establish a list of criteria and expected outcomes for the differential tuition program. These criteria and expected outcomes would serve as guidelines for the Categorical Committees’ rankings and the Funding Analysis Committee’s allocation decisions. The Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs are expected to support the Student Senate recommendations except for the most compelling reasons. If any such situation should occur in which the Provost feels that he or she cannot support the recommendations, the Provost or members of the Provost’s staff shall meet with the Director of Academic Affairs to attempt to come to a solution.

The Academic Affairs Director, in conjunction with the Academic Affairs Commission, would establish and approve a list of criteria. The list would then be submitted to the Student Senate for approval. The Senate may, with a simple majority, make modifications to the criteria. Senate approval of any established criteria would take place in the spring semester and would apply to the following year’s differential tuition funding cycle.

Student Senate shall refrain from establishing criteria unless extenuating circumstances develop and pre-established criteria are determined as necessary to accomplish the broader goals of the Blugold Commitment.

Section 2.02 Call for Proposals
At the beginning of the fall semester, the Office of the Provost shall issue a Call for Proposals to all faculty and academic staff. The Provost’s office will collect proposals in a manner and timeline of its designation, so as to allow proposals to be prioritized within operational areas.

The Office of the Provost is responsible for designing and managing the proposal forms and the annual Call process. The Provost or his or her designee will consult with the Student Senate Academic Affairs Director on the format of the proposal form before it is sent to faculty and academic staff. The Call for Proposals shall clearly articulate the program array categories and associated criteria approved by the Student Senate the preceding spring semester.

Section 2.03 Duration of Project Proposals
All proposals may request to be categorized in one of three funding categories:
- One Year
Multi-Year
Base

Proposals requesting either multi-year or base funding are expected to submit a three year budget plan. Multi-year proposals will be granted funding for three years and then must re-apply for funding. Multi-year proposal will be subject to annual assessment. Proposals granted base funding will be guaranteed funding for three years, at which time they will also be subject to assessment. The proposals will then either be placed on probationary status or renewed. The full assessment process is detailed in Article 6.

Section 2.03.1 Project Proposals with Base Personnel Funding
Faculty positions shall be committed, as appropriate, incrementally as follows. Proposals requesting positions shall clearly articulate student learning outcomes to be achieved. Selected proposals shall receive a commitment for one-time (non-base) funding for up to the next three years to be used to “backfill” for faculty involved in the project.

When the project seeks renewal, assessment data must be provided that clearly indicates sufficient student learning. If the project is selected for continuation, base funding and FTE positions can be allocated to the program with the explicit expectation that the project continue to demonstrate sufficient student achievement of the student learning outcomes.

Projects receiving base-funded FTE positions are subject to the same assessment process as all other base-funded proposals. Projects that fail to demonstrate sufficient student achievement are subject to discontinuation. If a project is discontinued, the awarded FTE positions shall be reclaimed by the Blugold Commitment whenever vacancies permit.

Section 2.04 Ranking of College Deans and Division Administrators
The deans of each college, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and the Assistant Chancellor for Budget and Finance shall rank the proposals from their respective college or division. The division administrators shall provide sufficient feedback to Categorical Committees including but not limited to feasibility of proposal and potential for student learning. The feedback shall detail the rationale behind the ranking if necessary. Rankings are to be conducted either through quartiles or straight numerical ranking, if quartiles are not feasible.

Article 3: Categorical Committees

Section 3.01 Committees
After the proposals have been ranked by the deans of the colleges or appropriate administrators and organized by the Provost’s staff all proposals will be placed into a particular category. The Categorical Committees will be formed to evaluate proposals in the following program areas:

• Research and Scholarly Activity
• Immersion Experiences
• Internships/Practicum
• Learning and Teaching Enhancements
• Innovative Projects

Each committee ranks all proposals after they have been marked for mission alignment by the Provost and ranked by the appropriate dean of the college.

If the number of proposals in a specific category is deemed to be too large for one committee to effectively review and rank in the given timeframe, another committee of similar structure may be formed under that specific category.

Section 3.02 Committee Membership
Each committee shall consist of three students, two faculty or academic staff members and at most one administrative representative who will be a non-voting member. Committee members are expected to be at all necessary meetings of the committee. Students should, when possible, be from different colleges. All committee members shall have the following responsibilities:

• Fully comprehend the policies governing differential tuition
• Understand the funding structures and the tentative funding goals for their particular categories
• Be present and an active member of their committee
• Follow the rules and guidelines established in these bylaws and by the Student Senate
• Recuse themselves from discussions of a proposal in the case of a real or perceived conflict of interest
• Maintain a collegial collaborative partnership among students, staff, and administration.

A representative from the Office of the Provost and the Student Senate Academic Affairs Commission shall inform all members of their duties and responsibilities on the Categorical Committee and shall be available to answer any inquires as they arise.

Section 3.02.1 Student Committee Members
Undergraduate students who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for membership: Student members must be officially enrolled at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire with a minimum of six credits, and have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0. The Student Senate program assistant shall check all appointees prior to their appointment to determine if they are eligible. The President of the Student Body and Academic Affairs Director will appoint student members with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. The term for appointment for all members is one year.

There shall be a minimum of one Student Senate member on each Categorical Committee.
Section 3.02.2 Faculty and Staff Committee Members
The Provost shall appoint two members of the faculty and/or academic staff to each Categorical Committee. The Provost may also appoint staff to the Funding Analysis Committee as necessary.

Section 3.03 Committee Chair
Each Categorical Committee shall internally appoint a chair who has the following responsibilities:

• Prepare meeting agendas and minutes
• Establish meeting times in which all committee members will be present
• Keep an active record of ranking of each proposal, and provide the list to the Funding Analysis Committee
• Keep a detailed list of proposals or departments which are on provisional status

Section 3.04 Procedures
If in the discussion of the ranking of specific proposals, it becomes necessary to take an issue to vote, a vote shall be called. Majority vote shall carry. The committee chair shall keep a record of all voting and motions made.

During each Categorical Committee, the committee chair must submit in writing rationale behind the committee’s decision in ranking of a particular proposal. These supplemental materials shall be included with the ranking recommendation of the committee as well as the college dean’s recommendation and ranking.
Article 4 Funding Analysis Committee

Section 4.01 Committee
The Funding Analysis Committee determines the allocation of funding to the proposals within the program array approved by the Student Senate. The committee shall take the input and feedback from the college deans and the Categorical Committees when making funding decisions on proposals.

Section 4.02 Membership
The Funding Analysis Committee shall include up to four student representatives (including the Academic Affairs Director) and four representatives from the Office of the Provost. All committee members shall have the following responsibilities:

- Fully comprehend the policies that govern differential tuition
- Understand the funding structures and the program array and associated target funding levels as approved by Student Senate.
- Be present and an active member of the committee
- Follow the rules and guidelines established in these bylaws and by the Student Senate
- Recuse themselves from discussions of a proposal in the case of a real or perceived conflict of interest
- Maintain a collegial collaborative partnership among students, staff, and administration.

A representative from the Office of the Provost and the Student Senate Academic Affairs Commission shall inform all members of their duties and responsibilities on the Committee.

Section 4.02.1 Student Senate Committee Members
The Academic Affairs Director will appoint Student Senate members with the advice and consent of the Student Senate. The term for appointment for all members is one year.

Section 4.03 Procedures
In the case of a split vote on the Funding Analysis Committee, the chair may move the agenda to other business to avoid a stalemate. For funding of any proposal, a majority vote must occur. In the case of a split vote, negotiations should occur to allow progress on the allocation. The Provost or his or her designee, as chair, may not cast a tie-breaking vote beyond their original vote.

Section 4.04 Provost Initiatives
Based on the Centennial Plan, historical evidence, and the mission of the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, the Provost shall develop and implement Provost Initiatives each differential tuition budget cycle. Provost Initiatives shall be limited to the following:

- Implementing prototypes for a revised General Education program
- Improved freshmen and transfer student advising
The Provost’s Office shall present to the Student Senate a detailed description of these Provost Initiatives, complete with departmental participation and proposed budgetary information. Prior to the presentation of the Provost Initiatives to the Student Senate, the Provost shall vet the proposals with the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Student Senate Academic Affairs Commission Director. Provost Initiatives shall not exceed 25% of the total programmatic funding for any given tuition cycle without a simple majority roll call bill by Student Senate.

Section 4.04.1 Procedures
The Provost Initiatives shall be submitted to the Funding Analysis Committee for consideration.

Article 5 Student Senate Oversight

Section 5.01 Overview
At the conclusion of the Funding Analysis Committee, the Academic Affairs Director shall submit a bill for Student Senate’s consideration containing a list of funded proposals, the amount requested by the proposal author, the amount granted by the Funding Analysis Committee and any other relevant or requested information. In addition, the bill shall outline the items on the provisional status list and details if applicable about those specific proposals. The bill before Senate shall be approved by simple majority vote.

The bill presented to Student Senate must include the following:
- List of proposals funded, amounts requested and amounts rewarded by the FAC
- Funding plan, including total available funds, total amount spent and expected carry-over
- Funding plan for the Provost Initiatives
- Amount allocated to financial aid
- Report detailing expected coverage of the proposed financial aid amount
Article 6: Assessment

Section 6.01 One-Year Funding
Proposals funded for only one year will have to submit a proposal the following year in order to continue to receive funds. In order to be approved for another year of funding, or to qualify for multi-year or base funding, the proposal is expected to contain assessment data or a statement of achieved outcomes in order to receive funds. Assessment and recommendation will occur in the Fall Semester through the previously established Funding Analysis Committee process as defined in Article 4.

Section 6.02 Multi-Year Proposals

Section 6.02.1 Progress Reports
Proposals that receive multi-year funding will be expected to submit an annual progress report to continue to receive funding.

This report will be submitted to the Department Chair or Unit Director in mid-February. Chairs/Directors will then share their findings with their corresponding Dean or Vice Chancellor. Deans and Vice Chancellors will then share their reports with the Provost’s Office.

Section 6.02.2 Funding Analysis Committee Review
After reports are due to the Provost’s Office, the Funding Analysis Committee (as defined in Article 4) will meet to assess progress of the proposals. The FAC will convene in early March, and its decisions may include the continuation of planned funding, new goals or expectations to be assessed by for the remainder of the proposal’s current funding period, or in unfortunate circumstances, discontinued funding.

These decisions will be shared with proposers and their supervisors, as well as with the Student Senate.

6.03 Base-Funded Proposals

6.03.1 Progress Reports
Proposals that have been granted base-funding must submit a progress report to the Provost’s Office in their third year of funding. This report will be submitted in February, and will be reviewed by the Funding Analysis Committee in March.

6.03.2 Funding Analysis Committee Review
The Funding Analysis Committee will convene in March to review the proposal’s progress and determine whether or not the proposal has adequately achieved the necessary outcomes to justify continued funding.
6.03.2(a) Continued Funding
If adequate progress is determined by the FAC during review, the proposal will receive an additional five fiscal years of funding before undergoing the full review process again.

6.03.2(b) Probationary Status
If adequate progress is not achieved (as determined by the FAC during review) the program will be placed under probationary status, the terms of which may be determined by the FAC.

If the terms of a proposal’s probationary status are met by the FAC’s established deadline, the program will receive an additional five years of funding before undergoing the full review process again.

6.04 Student Senate Assessment Oversight
All funding decisions assessed by the Funding Analysis Committee will be presented before the Student Senate as soon as possible after notifications are sent to proposers.

6.04.1 Funding Increases
If for any reason at all the Funding Analysis Committee finds it necessary to increase funding to a specific proposal during review, any funding increase must be brought before the Student Senate in bill form and be passed by a 2/3 majority.