

## 2. MISSION

### 2.1 HISTORY AND MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

#### **Merger of Two Systems of Higher Education**

The University of Wisconsin System was created on October 11, 1971, by Chapter 100, Laws of 1971, which combined the two public university systems of the state under a single board of regents. The 1971 legislature set July 1, 1973, as the final date for completion of the merger, but the 1973 Assembly Bill 930, drafted with the help of a Merger Implementation Study Committee to achieve that objective, did not pass in the assembly until the spring session of 1974 and died for lack of senate action when the regular session ended.

The bill passed both houses, as Senate Bill 2, in the special session in May 1974 and became law on July 9, 1974. The bill combined the former Chapter 36 (former University of Wisconsin) and Chapter 37 (former Wisconsin State Universities) to create a new Chapter 36 (University of Wisconsin System) of the Wisconsin Statutes. Chapter 36 ([www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/Stat0036.pdf](http://www.legis.state.wi.us/statutes/Stat0036.pdf)) sets forth the mission and purpose of the University of Wisconsin System. This statute also describes: the responsibilities and powers of the Board of Regents, faculty and student roles in shared governance, faculty appointment and tenure rights, academic staff appointments, and other aspects involved in the administration of the University of Wisconsin System.

#### **Former University of Wisconsin**

The pre-merger University of Wisconsin was created by the state constitution and state law in 1848. At the time of merger in 1971, it consisted of the original land-grant university at Madison (1849); the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (merged in 1956); UW-Green Bay (1968) and UW-Parkside (1968) plus 10 freshman-sophomore centers (now colleges) and statewide Extension. Total 1971 enrollment was 69,554. Governance was by The Regents of the University of Wisconsin, a board of 10 members, nine appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate for nine-year terms, the tenth being the state superintendent of public instruction who served ex-officio on both the UW and WSU boards.

#### **Former Wisconsin State Universities**

The Wisconsin State Universities system had its origins in an 1857 state law creating the Board of Regents of Normal Schools. The first of nine such institutions was opened at Platteville in 1866 and the last at Eau Claire in 1916. In 1927, the normal schools received authority to grant baccalaureate degrees in education and were renamed State Teachers Colleges. With the addition of liberal arts programs in 1951, they became Wisconsin State Colleges. (As a side note, UW-Stout was founded as a private institution in 1893. It was governed by a separate Board of Trustees from 1911, when it became a state institution, until 1955 when it was designated part of the Wisconsin State Colleges System.) In 1964, the Wisconsin State Colleges were designated Wisconsin State Universities. At the time of merger in 1971, the board had 14 members, including the state superintendent of public instruction and 13 citizens appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate for five-year terms. The WSU system then governed by the board, consisted of the nine universities and four freshman-sophomore branch campuses (now colleges) and had a total enrollment of 64,148.

#### **The University of Wisconsin System**

The 1971 merger law was approved after long debate by a margin of one vote in the senate. It combined the two systems under a single Board of Regents. The current UW System consists of two doctoral campuses (Madison, Milwaukee); eleven comprehensive campuses (Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Oshkosh, Parkside, Platteville, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, Superior and Whitewater); thirteen two-year campuses called UW Colleges (Baraboo/Sauk County, Barron County, Fond du Lac, Fox Valley, Manitowoc, Marathon County, Marinette, Marshfield/Wood County, Richland, Rock County, Sheboygan, Washington County and Waukesha); and a statewide Extension with offices in every county. Each institution is named "University of Wisconsin-" followed by the location or name.

Each institution of the University of Wisconsin System shares in the mission of the System.

### **UW System Mission Statement**

The mission of the University of Wisconsin System is to develop human resources, to discover and disseminate knowledge, to extend knowledge and its application beyond the boundaries of its campuses, and to serve and stimulate society by developing in students heightened intellectual, cultural, and humane sensitivities, scientific, professional and technological expertise, and a sense of purpose. Inherent in this broad mission are methods of instruction, research, extended training, and public service designed to educate people and improve the human condition. Basic to every purpose of the UW System is the search for truth.

## **2.2 VISION STATEMENT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-SUPERIOR**

The University of Wisconsin-Superior shall be firmly established as a nationally recognized public liberal arts institution where the learning community emphasizes individual attention and promotes intellectual growth, personal development, career preparation, professional studies, and life-long learning in an atmosphere of individual dignity with respect for the diversity of human cultures. To this end, UW-Superior continually engages its students and the larger community in global research and discourse, and exposes all to challenging ideas that forge new models of responsible citizenship. UW-Superior will also celebrate its regional climate and multi-ethnic heritage on a vibrant and beautiful campus.

## **2.3 SELECT MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-SUPERIOR**

The University of Wisconsin-Superior fosters intellectual growth and career preparation within a liberal arts tradition that emphasizes individual attention and embodies respect for diverse cultures and multiple voices.

(Approved by Board of Regents October 10, 1997)

To accomplish these ends, the University will:

1. Provide students with a carefully articulated and comprehensive foundation in liberal studies as a base for all degree programs.
2. Award baccalaureate degrees in selected fields in education, the arts and the humanities, in the sciences and social sciences, and in business.
3. Offer graduate programs in areas associated with its undergraduate emphases and strengths.
4. Extend its undergraduate and graduate resources beyond the boundaries of the campus through distance learning programs.
5. Expect scholarly activity, including research, scholarship and creative endeavor, that supports its programs at the associate and baccalaureate degree levels, its selected graduate programs, and its special mission.
6. Engage in appropriate inter-institutional relationships to enhance educational and service opportunities.
7. Foster, with University of Wisconsin-Extension, the development of cooperative and general outreach programming and the integration of the Extension function with that of this institution.