REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON ENROLLMENT TARGETS

This Task Force was jointly appointed by the Chairman of the University Committee and the Chancellor to develop recommendations concerning the setting of an enrollment ceiling for the campus for the 1976-77 academic year.

University System documents that were provided to the Task Force stress the twin goals of providing quality programs and services while keeping the University accessible to all qualified citizens of the state. The UWM mission statement contains additional specifics concerning:

a) maintenance and development of programs designed to meet the needs of urban populations.

b) expansion of programming for part-time, minority and financially or educationally disadvantaged students,

c) provision of academic and professional graduate programs with special emphasis on the part-time student,

d) sustained research efforts to serve the needs of metropolitan areas, and

e) public service efforts to help meet the societal, governmental and industrial needs of metropolitan areas.

Approximately 35% of the state's population lives within thirty miles of the UWM campus. Included in this population are 91% of the state's blacks, 23% of the Indians and 45% of the Asians. The concentration of business and governmental offices in the area means that the proportion of working men and women seeking professional educational opportunities on a part-time basis is higher than any other area of the state with the possible exception of Madison.

That UWM has and is responding to the demands of its mission and the unique needs of the metropolitan area is substantiated by these figures. While UWM enrolls about one-sixth (1/6) of the undergraduates in the system, nearly one-fourth (1/4) of the master's level students and one-twentieth (1/20) of doctoral students, it has over two-fifth's (2/5) of the minority enrollment and nearly three-tenth's (3/10) of the part-time enrollment of the entire system.

The Report to Interim Legislative Study Committee on Per Student Support Differences Within and Among Campuses examines a number of secondary cost factors which explain variances in costs among programs and campuses. A comparison of the UWM situation to these factors indicates that this campus should be somewhat more expensive, yet the data presented shows that for the 1975-76 academic year UWM has the lowest Composite Support Index of any campus in the system. While recognizing that there may be individual programs on campus that are adequately funded, it is the Task Force's belief that the productivity cuts of recent years, continued enrollment growth and the failure of budget increases to keep pace with inflation have begun to have a negative impact on the quality of programs and services being delivered. The CSI index figure for this campus substantiates this belief.

The Task Force recognizes that the birth rate peaked in 1960, so that the number of students reaching college attendance age will continue to increase for four to five more years. We further realize that economic conditions have created pressures to attend schools close to home. Since 37% of the Wisconsin resident undergraduates in the UW System, and over 31% of the graduates, reside within commuting distance
of the UWM Campus, one may expect that both of these factors will exert continuing pressure to admit more students. Further confounding the issue are the needs to attract even larger proportions of minority students to higher education. Enrollment limits will either dictate some type of quota system or a turning away of proportionately larger numbers of minority students because of their generally less adequate preparation.

Enrollment targets for largely residential campuses may have the effect of shifting students to less crowded locations and thereby equalizing costs among those campuses. However, for a largely commuter campus such as UWM, with many students who cannot afford to leave home to attend school or who are tied to the area by their jobs, an enrollment limit can only result in denying access to the state's system of higher education for many hundreds of its citizens.

Conclusions and Recommendations

1. This Task Force believes that imposing enrollment limits on UWM is not consistent with campus mission as articulated by the Board of Regents. Enrollment limits will deny educational access to qualified students in this metropolitan area.

2. Because the UW System administration has required UWM to set an enrollment limit for Semester 1, 1976-77, this Task Force reluctantly recommends an enrollment limit of 24,500 students. This figure is based on the assumption of a continuation of current levels of support and the current mix of students (full vs. part-time and among different programs).

3. A faculty committee should be appointed to advise the campus administration on implementation.

Task Force on Enrollment Targets

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2/3/76