



State of Wisconsin \ LEGISLATIVE AUDIT BUREAU

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August 13, 2002

Senator Gary R. George and
Representative Joseph K. Leibham, Co-chairpersons
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator George and Representative Leibham:

We have completed a limited-scope review of the dental education contract between the State of Wisconsin and the Marquette University School of Dentistry for fiscal years (FYs) 1999-2000 and 2000-01. In each of these two years, the State provided \$1,167,000 in tuition aid to Marquette University for 100 Wisconsin residents enrolled in the undergraduate dental education program. Under 2001 Wisconsin Act 16, the per capita aid payments remain at \$11,670, but total program funding increased to \$1,342,100 in FY 2001-02 and \$1,517,100 in FY 2002-03 to enable more dental students to receive tuition aid.

Overall, we found that Marquette University was in compliance with its contract with the State and with requirements set forth in s. 39.46, Wis. Stats. During our review, we found the students for whom Marquette University claimed tuition aid were certified by the Higher Educational Aids Board as Wisconsin residents and were eligible to receive this state aid. In addition, we found that Marquette University expended state funds only for the undergraduate dental school program, gave preference in admissions to Wisconsin residents, and promoted minority enrollment.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by staff within Marquette University and the Higher Educational Aids Board during our review.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Mueller".

Janice Mueller
State Auditor

JM/JG/ab

Attachment

Senator Gary R. George and
Representative Joseph K. Leibham
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cc: Senator Judith Robson Representative Samantha Starzyk
 Senator Brian Burke Representative John Gard
 Senator Joanne Huelsman Representative David Cullen
 Senator Mary Lazich Representative Barbara Gronemus

Ms. Jane Hojan-Clark, Executive Secretary
Higher Educational Aids Board

Mr. Mike Lederer, Comptroller
Marquette University

Ms. Rana Altenberg, Vice-President for Governmental and Community Relations
Marquette University

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

Marquette University operates the only dental school in the State of Wisconsin. Since 1973, the State, through the Higher Educational Aids Board, has contracted with the Marquette University School of Dentistry to provide dental education services for Wisconsin residents. As authorized under s. 20.235(1)(d), Wis. Stats., and in accordance with the terms of the contract with the School of Dentistry, the State provides a specified per capita aid payment for a prescribed maximum number of Wisconsin residents enrolled as full-time students in the undergraduate dental education program.

As required by s. 39.46(1), Wis. Stats., the Legislative Audit Bureau reviews the Marquette University School of Dentistry's compliance with contract provisions and with various statutory requirements every two years. For the 1999-2001 biennium, we tested the residency and the enrollment status of dental students for whom Marquette University claimed tuition assistance, to ensure the students were Wisconsin residents and that they were claimed for no more than five years. In addition, we examined expenditures charged to the state contract account to ensure Marquette University spent state funds solely for the undergraduate dental education program. Finally, we reviewed the School of Dentistry's admissions and minority enrollment policies.

State Tuition Aid to Wisconsin Residents

During our audit period, the School of Dentistry received \$11,670 for each Wisconsin resident, up to a maximum of 100, enrolled as a full-time student in the undergraduate dental education program. As shown in Table 1, the per capita aid payment has been \$11,670 since academic year 1994-95 and is not expected to change through 2002-03. However, the statutory limit to the number of students who may receive aid has increased since the end of our audit period. The School of Dentistry will receive \$1,342,100 in tuition aid in academic year 2001-02 for a maximum of 115 Wisconsin resident students. For academic year 2002-03, the state tuition aid will increase to \$1,517,100 for a maximum of 130 Wisconsin resident students.

Table 1

Marquette University School of Dentistry
 State Tuition Aid for Wisconsin Residents

<u>Academic Year</u>	<u>Statutory Limitation</u>	<u>Residents Receiving Tuition Aid</u>	<u>Per Capita Aid Payment</u>	<u>Total State Tuition Aid</u>
2002-03*	130	N/A	\$11,670	\$1,517,100
2001-02*	115	N/A	11,670	1,342,100
2000-01	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1999-00	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1998-99	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1997-98	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1996-97	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1995-96	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1994-95	100	100	11,670	1,167,000
1993-94	100	100	11,330	1,133,000
1992-93	100	99.5	11,000	1,094,500
1991-92	93	92.5	8,500	786,250
1990-91	90	90	5,447	490,200
1989-90	100	100	5,217	521,700
1988-89	132	121	5,012	606,452
1987-88	175	167.5	5,012	839,510
1986-87	214	201.5	5,012	1,009,917
1985-86	265	251	5,012	1,258,013
1984-85	350	308	5,012	1,543,696
1983-84	350	330	4,866	1,605,780
1982-83	400	375.5	4,724	1,773,862
1981-82	450	414	4,374	1,810,836
1980-81	500	447.5	4,050	1,812,375
1979-80	500	477.5	3,920	1,871,800
1978-79	500	495.5	3,450	1,709,475
1977-78	500	491	3,300	1,620,300
1976-77	500	497.5	2,800	1,393,000
1975-76	500	490.5	2,800	1,373,400
1974-75	No limit	454	3,000	1,362,000
1973-74	No limit	435	3,000	1,305,000

* As included in 2001 Wisconsin Act 16, the 2001-03 biennial budget.

The dental education contract requires that the School of Dentistry request tuition aid only for full-time students who are Wisconsin residents, and for no more than five years for each student. The Higher Educational Aids Board certifies the residency status of all students claimed by the school.

We reviewed the residency status of students claimed for tuition aid by the School of Dentistry and evaluated the effectiveness of the system for monitoring tuition payments and the number of times students were claimed for aid. We concluded that the system, which involves both the Higher Educational Aids Board and Marquette University staff, is effective in ensuring that tuition aid is paid only for eligible students and that in the 1999-2001 biennium, the students for whom School of Dentistry claimed for tuition aid met the eligibility criteria.

We also concluded that tuition rates for Wisconsin residents and nonresidents are equivalent, as required by the dental education contract. The School of Dentistry's tuition rates were \$29,960 for academic year 1999-2000 and \$31,000 for academic year 2000-01. Wisconsin residents who were claimed for state tuition aid were charged \$18,290 for academic year 1999-2000 and \$19,330 for academic year 2000-01, which is equivalent to tuition rates less a per capita tuition aid credit of \$11,670 in each of those years.

The Legislature has directed that, in return for receiving state aid, the School of Dentistry develop an admissions policy that gives Wisconsin residents preference in admissions. Marquette University staff noted that they actively recruit resident applicants by visiting several Wisconsin universities. Our review of student admissions procedures found the School of Dentistry gave preference by enrolling more Wisconsin residents than the 100-student maximum for which the State will provide tuition aid. For the 1999-2000 academic year, 25 percent of the 99 Wisconsin residents who applied as first-year students were admitted to the School of Dentistry, compared to only 3 percent of 1,575 nonresident applicants. For the 2000-01 academic year, 21 percent of the 119 Wisconsin residents who applied as first-year students were admitted to the School of Dentistry, compared to 3 percent of the 1,472 nonresident applicants.

Finally, the dental education contract stipulates that tuition aid will be used to fund undergraduate dental education. We reviewed the expenditures incurred by the School of Dentistry during the 1999-01 biennium and determined that it had complied with the contract and spent state funds solely on undergraduate dental education.

Minority Enrollment

The dental education contract and s. 39.46(2)(g), Wis. Stats., require the School of Dentistry to make every effort to ensure that at least 5 percent of total enrollment consists of minority students, but neither the contract nor statutes define who is to be considered a minority student for this purpose. To assess whether the School of Dentistry met the 5 percent minority enrollment goal, we used the definition included both in s. 39.44 Wis. Stats., which relates to state grants to minority undergraduate students at institutions of higher education, and s. 39.40, Wis. Stats., which relates to the minority teacher loan program. By this definition, minority

students are Black Americans; Hispanics; Native Americans; and some former citizens of Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia and their descendents.

Since the School of Dentistry does not have information readily available for the number of students from or having ancestors from Laos, Vietnam, or Cambodia, our analysis excluded all students whose application to the School of Dentistry indicated Asian heritage. As shown in Table 2, based on the number of students who identified themselves as African American, Hispanic, or Native American, minority enrollment at the School of Dentistry remains well above the 5 percent goal. However, the number of minority students has declined since the 1994-95 academic year and was at a seven-year low in the 2000-01 academic year, with 41 minority students.

Table 2

**Marquette University School of Dentistry
Minority Enrollment
by Academic Year**

	<u>1994-95</u>	<u>1995-96</u>	<u>1996-97</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>2000-01</u>
African American	15	12	14	13	14	12	8
Hispanic	41	29	30	33	31	30	30
Native American	4	4	5	1	2	4	3
Laotian, Vietnamese, or Cambodian*	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Total Minority Students	60	45	49	47	47	46	41
Total Enrollment	286	280	287	288	294	294	296
Percentage of Total Enrollment	21.0%	16.1%	17.1%	16.3%	16.0%	15.6%	13.8%

* Information on this group of students was not readily available.

The 2000-01 decline in minority enrollment was largely due to a decline in the number of African American students. However, Marquette University staff have indicated that the School of Dentistry continues its efforts to recruit minorities throughout the state, as well as from college campuses throughout the country. In order to enlarge the pool of qualified Wisconsin minority applicants, the School of Dentistry has become involved in local high school and middle school programs that focus on minorities and dental education.