GREEN BAY—A recommendation that the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay be designated as one of two "special mission" institutions in the UW System was hailed today by UWGB Chancellor Edward W. Weidner as "an outstanding honor for the campus and a tribute to the quality of our faculty and staff."

Announced by the UW Central Administration, the recommendation, if approved, will mean "the fulfillment of the plans and dreams of the last seven years," Weidner said. "It means, too, that UWGB will assume a statewide role, with a program of significance to students from all over Wisconsin as well as those within commuting range of our campus."

Under the proposal, UWGB has been singled out to hold "both a major mission for an undergraduate program unique to the UW System and for master's degree and specialist level work" appropriate to its mission. Since 1966, when the academic plan was first formulated, UWGB has won national and international recognition for a focus in all its activities—instruction, research and community outreach—on man in his environment. The University's program is characterized by a problem-oriented approach to higher education, institution-wide innovation, interdisciplinary studies and a "communiversity" thrust defined by Weidner as "a socially responsible university interacting with a socially responsible community."

The concept of special mission institutions was developed by the UW administration as part of a comprehensive plan to implement merger legislation through improved systemwide educational planning and the elimination of unnecessary duplication of programs, including graduate offerings. The plan, as approved by the Board of Regents upon recommendation of its education committee, would maintain the Milwaukee and Madison campuses as doctoral institutions. The remaining 11 four-year campuses would be grouped into three clusters—seven undergraduate universities, two special mission institutions with graduate programs, and two universities designated as graduate centers, offering selective graduate programs in the arts and sciences and teacher education at the master's degree and specialist levels.

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The seven campuses designated as primarily undergraduate institutions would be directed, according to the proposal, to phase out existing graduate programs or continue them only as cooperative programs with doctoral and graduate center universities.

The UW Central Administration was assigned the responsibility of drawing up the list of campuses that would be included in each cluster. Reactions will be sought on the recommendations during the next few weeks, and the proposal will be discussed again during the Sept. 7 meeting of the Regents.

Stout State University, Menomonie, was also recommended for special mission designation. UW-Oshkosh and UW-Eau Claire were proposed as graduate centers.