Foundation Financial Update for 2021-22

For the Foundation’s most recent fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, donors provided over $56.7 million in contributions. A significant gift of $40 million in the form of cash and pledges from John and Carolyn Sonnentag result in the large value of gifts in this year. Investment returns for the previous fiscal year experienced a significant downturn that is a shared experience for all foundations. The UW-Eau Claire Foundation’s total investment portfolio realized a negative investment return of 7.1%, but the Foundation board’s conservative investment approach still supported spending to the endowed funds. Overall support for the university was almost $47.5 million for the year ending June 30, 2022.

Foundation disbursements to the university

The Foundation’s task of supporting the university is its major point of emphasis. By raising private funds from charitable alumni and friends of the university, the Foundation can distribute funds to the areas of greatest need. These disbursements come from a combination of direct annual gifts and earnings from the Foundation’s investments.

During the 2021-2022 fiscal year, the Foundation disbursed almost $50 million to benefit the university’s people and programs, including almost $2.5 million in scholarships, grants and awards. A significant portion of the Foundation’s disbursements for 2021-2022 are in the form of the gifts and commitments for the Sonnentag Event Center and John and Carolyn Sonnentag Fieldhouse, which began construction in April 2022.

For 10 years in a row, disbursements to support the university through scholarships or direct support exceeded $6 million.

The chart to the right illustrates the distribution of funds in 2021-2022, including disbursements from undesignated funds (those that come with no strings attached) and disbursements from funds designated by donors for specific purposes.