



*Representing UW-Madison Faculty.
Strengthening Wisconsin.*

August 12, 2015

Hand Delivered

Assembly Speaker Robin Vos
Room 211 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Speaker Vos:

According to recent press reports, Assembly Republicans are meeting privately today to discuss ways that the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) could “team up to cut costs, find efficiencies and eliminate redundancies.” The faculty at UW-Madison urge you and other legislative leaders to reconsider this strategy and instead create a transparent and inclusive process for any review of public higher education in the state.

If we have learned anything in recent years, it is that closed-door negotiations on proposals relating to structural reform of higher education in Wisconsin do not produce successful results. Look no further than the plan to create a public authority for UW-Madison in 2011 and UW System public authority earlier this year.

A better model for success is the thorough and productive debate that led to the creation of the UW System. In that instance, there was a great deal of bipartisan debate and discussion, and broad public consultation.

UW-Madison faculty have a direct stake in this discussion given the collaborative relationship between UW-Madison’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and UW Extension. Some faculty even hold dual appointments between CALs and Extension. Any changes to Extension would have an impact on the important work done by CALs and Extension for the state.

UW-Madison faculty welcome an open and consultative discussion on the future of higher education in Wisconsin. We hope to be “at the table,” along with many other stakeholders across the state, as this discussion continues.

Sincerely,

PROFS Steering Committee

Judith Burstyn, President, Chemistry

Michael Bernard Donals, English & Jewish Studies

Thomas Broman, History of Science

Bradley Christian, Medical Physics

Murray Clayton, Plant Pathology & Statistics

Mark Cook, Animal Science

Irwin Goldman, Horticulture

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Kristyn Masters, Biomedical Engineering

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