

June 3, 2015

VIA US Mail and E-Mail To:

Mr. Michael J. Falbo, Regent President
University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents
Office of the Regents
1860 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dr. Ray Cross, President
University of Wisconsin System
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706
president@uwsa.edu

RE: FY 2016 Budget Cut Threats to Tenure and Due Proces

Dear Mr. Falbo and Dr. Cross:

I am writing on behalf of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP). Founded in 1915, the AAUP has helped shape American higher education by developing the standards and procedures that maintain quality in education and academic freedom in this country's colleges and universities. We have been following recent developments in the Wisconsin legislature with concern. We understand that if the Joint Finance Committee's recommendations are included in the FY 2016 budget, tenure and appropriate procedures to ensure due process will no longer reside in statute and due process rights for University of Wisconsin faculty and academic staff will be severely curtailed.

These changes in tenure and due process and the \$250 million proposed cut to the UW System amount to a direct attack on higher education as a public good, a vision of higher education that has shaped the UW System from the formulation of the Wisconsin Idea in 1904 to the present day. Tenure and due process do not only protect individual faculty members in their teaching, research, and publication efforts, as well as their right to speak on matters of public concern. They also protect the collective right of the faculty to participate in the formulation of academic policy and budget priorities and to use their professional expertise to recommend hiring and retaining faculty and administrators so that the University System can best serve the public interest and the citizens of the state.

We urge you in the strongest terms possible to fight to have these sections removed from the FY 2016 budget bill. We further urge you to take this opportunity to develop Board policies that maintain the exact language of the current Chapter 36 and are guided by widely accepted standards of academic governance consistent with the principles of academic freedom long endorsed and defended by the University of Wisconsin System.

To assist in this effort, we attach our Recommended Institutional Regulations (RIR's), which are sample handbook policies and procedures based on AAUP standards and policies. We are proud of the AAUP's 100-year history promoting academic freedom, tenure, and shared governance and are especially proud that our policies and these RIR's today form the basis of board policy and faculty handbooks at the

overwhelming majority of colleges and universities around the U.S.

If there is anything we can do to assist you in your dealings with the legislature and in ensuring that Wisconsin maintains its well-deserved reputation for a strong university system, we stand ready to advise you.

Sincerely,



Rudy Fichtenbaum, President
American Association of University Professors

cc: Jane Radue, Executive Director and Corporate Secretary
Office of the Board of Regents
(Via US Mail and E-Mail)

Geoffrey Peterson, UW-Eau Claire
Steve Meyer, UW-Green Bay
George Cravins, UW-La Crosse
Grant Petty, UW Madison
Mark D. Schwartz, UW-Milwaukee
Kay E. Neal, UW-Oshkosh
Daphne Pham, UW-Parkside
Charles Cornett, UW-Plattville
David Rainville, UW-River Falls
Randy Olson, UW-Stevens Point
Petre (Nelu) Ghenciu, UW-Stout
Nicholas Sloboda, UW-Superior
Dave Munro, UW-Whitewater
Mark C.E. Peterson, UW-Colleges (Washington County)
Craig Saxe, UW Extension- Juneau County

UW System Faculty Representatives
(Via E-Mail Only)