



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

July 9, 2015

The Honorable Scott Walker
Governor
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Governor Walker:

I am writing to request that you veto or partially veto the provision in Senate Bill 21 regarding indefinite academic staff appointments. The language in Section 1210M of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 21 would prohibit the Board of Regents from making a probationary or indefinite academic staff appointment. If signed into law this provision will have a lasting and damaging impact on the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Schools of Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.

Both the School of Pharmacy and the School of Veterinary Medicine employ clinical and clinical health science (CHS) faculty. These employees – which account for over a third of the faculty from these schools – are responsible for the majority of the classroom, laboratory and clinical training necessary to prepare students as pharmacists and veterinarians. However, because their primary responsibility is teaching rather than research, they hold indefinite academic staff appointments rather than tenure and tenure track faculty positions.

Eliminating indefinite status as a possibility for our clinical/CHS track faculty will cripple the ability of Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine to compete nationally with other schools for the best faculty and to maintain the high quality of these schools, which are both ranked 5th in the nation in their respective disciplines by US News & World Report. Our clinical/CHS track faculty lines are extremely rigorous and are highlighted across the country as one of the best examples of clinical faculty working side by side with basic science tenure track faculty to achieve the unified mission of teaching our students and advancing the science of veterinary medicine and pharmacy. The premise since the creation of these schools and their professional programs has been that our tenure track and clinical track faculty, the majority of whom could easily have been hired in tenure track positions at other universities, are equivalent. They are paid equivalently, have equal status on executive committees and promotion time frames are equivalent. Importantly, the scholarly expectation is essentially the same: Our clinical/CHS faculty are expected to not only deliver care to their patients, but also to develop new knowledge.

Thank you in advance for considering this request. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership

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