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## **PROFS Statement on UW System Presidential Search**

With the withdrawal of Jim Johnsen as the sole finalist for the Presidency of the UW System, the Board of Regents now has an opportunity to get the search right. The process that led to the naming of Johnsen as the sole finalist was flawed: the search committee included no members of the faculty or staff, and no student members, the search itself was shrouded in unnecessary secrecy, the public engagement process was halfhearted at best, and communication with stakeholders throughout the process was infrequent.

PROFS strongly urges the Regents to appoint a committee that includes representatives from among faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students; to engage in frequent and open forums with members of the university community on the search's progress; to make public the names of multiple finalists for the position; and to allow finalists to engage with student, faculty, and staff stakeholders during their presentations to campus.

Since the search took so long only to end in failure – which is ironic, given the Regents' argument that a smaller search committee would lead to a more efficient and quicker process – PROFS urges the Regents to consider the appointment an interim President, after soliciting true engagement from faculty, staff, and students from around the System, while they re-boot the process and start the search anew.

The only true measure of seriousness of the Regents' commitment to shared governance is to actually engage in shared governance, and a good start would be to ensure that the re-opened search for the UW System president is one that includes a search committee comprised of its faculty, staff and students.

June 15, 2020