



**Office of the President**

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April 6, 2015

Dear Member of Joint Finance,

As the Joint Committee on Finance finishes its public hearings and continues its review of the State Budget, we want to thank you for the hours of work you have already invested in this budget process and for the effort you will be making in the coming months.

As leaders of the UW System, we want to take this opportunity to offer our collective input on the budget. Each of us has held meetings with our staff, students, faculty, and community leaders, and there are three main points that we hope you will focus on when considering the UW System budget:

First, we ask that you support the flexibilities now granted to the University in the public authority proposal: budgeting, human resources, capital planning, construction, financial management and procurement. With your support, our campuses will have the flexibility we have long called for to manage our resources responsibly and effectively while also being held accountable to the state. We stand ready to be accountable for the flexibilities you provide.

Second, we ask you to support the proposed dedicated funding structure that includes an annual CPI adjustment. While the amount of additional revenue generated annually by this model would be modest, predictable revenue will mean more predictable costs and pricing. This would be a valuable tool in helping us responsibly control our costs and, in turn, tuition rates. Reasonable tuition planning would be a huge win for both students and taxpayers.

Third, we ask you to reduce the size of the funding cut. We appreciate the fact that so many of you have already acknowledged the need for this, and we thank you for making it a priority. As we work together to reduce the size of the cut, we will also continue to find savings and efficiencies on each of our campuses and in System Administration to help manage the resources we have and to responsibly mitigate the impact of any funding reduction on our students.

Thank you again for your support and for working with us through this budget process. We appreciate your consideration of our priorities, and we stand ready to work with you to build a new and stronger partnership between the University of Wisconsin System and the State of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross".

President, UW System

James Schmidt  
Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire

Gary Miller  
Chancellor, UW-Green Bay

Joe Gow  
Chancellor, UW-La Crosse

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Chancellor, UW-Madison

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