

From: Campus Announcements

Sent: Friday, June 05, 2015 5:05 PM

Subject: Campus Announcements - Budget update #18 - Regents action on tenure

Dear colleagues,

On Friday, the UW System Board of Regents voted unanimously to add faculty tenure protections to Regent policy in anticipation of them being dropped from state law.

A substantive tenure system is at the core of our university system, and I am heartened by the Regents support for tenure protections.

The Regents created a bridge policy, which takes effect July 1, 2015, assuming tenure is removed from state law as anticipated. A task force will work on recommendations for a permanent tenure policy, expected by April 2016.

We will have the opportunity to help shape that policy. We will be well served by the presence of Ken Menningen, the chair of our new Common Council combined governance body, on the Regent task force on tenure. Please contact Ken with your thoughts and suggestions.

As most of you know, the core purpose of tenure is to ensure academic freedom. I am committed to the conviction that creating knowledge and expressing ideas, whether in the classroom or through research, be free from intimidation or retaliation. Our faculty must be able to pursue research wherever the science takes them, even into unpopular territory.

I have been working with those outside the academy to help them understand tenure is grounded in academic freedom not guaranteeing a job for life.

Tenured faculty also have the responsibility to ensure standards for quality are met within their profession, just as physicians and attorneys do.

We will continue to work with faculty, staff, legislators and Regents to ensure academic freedom and tenure remain pillars of our public higher education system. We will maintain an environment that is critical to the success of our university and, especially, our students.

Sincerely,
Bernie

Chancellor Bernie L. Patterson