

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](mailto:president@uwsa.edu)

**RE: FY 2016 Budget Cut Threats to Tenure and Due Process**

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)