



April 1, 2013

Wisconsin State Legislature
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Legislators,

We write today with one unified request: **please support the funding and flexibility provided for the University of Wisconsin System in the 2013-15 biennial budget proposal submitted to you by Governor Walker.**

If approved by the Legislature, this budget will provide:

- The lowest UW tuition increases in a decade
- Performance-based funding for economic development, workforce development, and college affordability
- Startup funding for the innovative UW Flexible Option
- The ability to address critical quality and compensation needs at all UW institutions
- Investments in UW facilities that serve students and advance science

You are committed to accelerating economic growth, and so are we. Our campuses and extension networks are essential to preparing the workforce to fill high-demand jobs, but we need fuel to help power Wisconsin's resurgence. We are encouraged by the prospect of the state's reinvestment in higher education. As illustrated in the attached fact sheet, most of that GPR investment is provided to cover debt service for previously approved construction projects, utilities, fringe benefits, and other ongoing fixed costs.

By providing stable funding for core UW operations, **you can ensure that UW students see very modest tuition increases while continuing to benefit from a high-quality college experience.** That will be welcome news to our 180,000 students and their families.

Building on the flexibilities provided to UW in the last biennial budget, the proposed 2013-15 budget gives the Board of Regents the authority to establish compensation plans. This combination of flexibility

and funding is essential to our success in serving students and citizens.

The budget before you will keep tuition down, grow high-skill jobs, prepare the workforce to fill those jobs, and generate considerable economic activity. Again, we ask you to support it. We look forward to speaking with you personally about the benefits of investing in higher education.

Sincerely,



Brent Smith, President
Board of Regents



Michael Falbo, Vice President
Board of Regents



Kevin Reilly, President
University of WI System



Gilles Bousquet
Interim Chancellor, UW-Eau Claire



Thomas Harden
Chancellor, UW-Green Bay



Joe Gow
Chancellor, UW-La Crosse



David Ward
Interim Chancellor, UW-Madison



Michael Lovell
Chancellor, UW-Milwaukee



Richard H. Wells
Chancellor, UW-Oshkosh



Deborah Ford
Chancellor, UW-Parkside



Dennis Shields
Chancellor, UW-Platteville



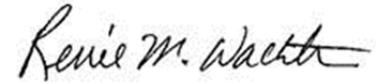
Dean Van Galen
Chancellor, UW-River Falls



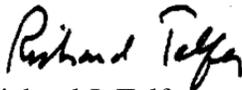
Bernie Patterson
Chancellor, UW-Stevens Point



Charles W. Sorensen
Chancellor, UW-Stout



Renée Wachter
Chancellor, UW-Superior



Richard J. Telfer
Chancellor, UW-Whitewater



Ray Cross, Chancellor
UW-Colleges/Extension



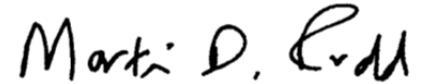
Thomas Pleger
CEO/Dean
UW-Baraboo/Sauk County



Paul Chase
CEO/Dean
UW-Barron County



John Short
CEO/Dean
UW-Fond du Lac



Martin Rudd
CEO/Dean
UW-Fox Valley



Charles Clark
CEO/Dean
UW-Manitowoc



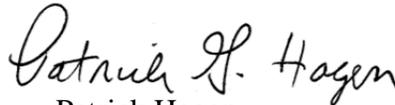
Keith Montgomery
CEO/Dean
UW-Marathon County



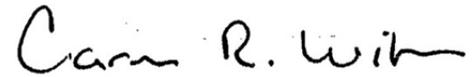
Paula Langteau,
CEO/Dean
UW-Marinette



Patricia Stuhr
CEO/Dean
UW-Marshfield/Wood County



Patrick Hagen
CEO/Dean
UW-Richland



Carmen Wilson
CEO/Dean
UW-Rock County



Jackie Joseph-Silverstein
CEO/Dean
UW-Sheboygan



Alan Paul Price
CEO/Dean
UW-Washington County



Harry Muir
CEO/Dean
UW-Waukesha



University of Wisconsin System 2013-15 Operating Budget

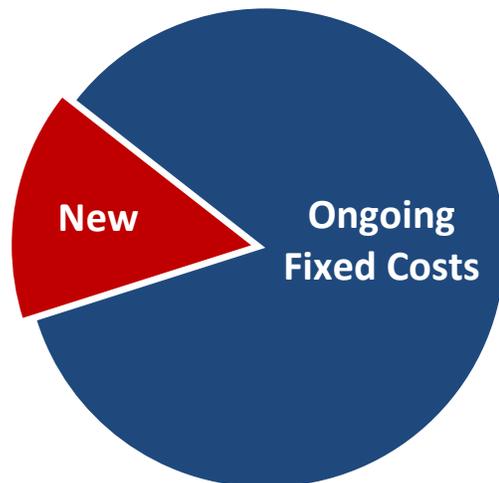
On February 20, 2013, Governor Scott Walker released his 2013-15 biennial state budget proposal, calling for **\$181.3 million in new taxpayer support over two years** for Wisconsin's public universities, colleges, and extension networks.

This strong reinvestment would ensure the lowest tuition increases for UW System students in 10 years

Some of this investment would come in the form of **performance funding** for new initiatives tied to defined outcomes. The majority, however, is provided to cover ongoing costs.

A modest investment (\$28 million) will support new initiatives

- \$20 million in performance funding for UW initiatives that create a stronger workforce, boost economic development, and improve affordability for students
- \$2 million to launch UW Flexible Option degree programs
- \$3 million to expand the Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine (WARM) and Training in Urban Medicine and Public Health (TRIUMPH) programs
- \$3.75 million in one-time aid for the UW Carbone Cancer Center



Most of the recommended GPR (\$153 million) is needed to cover ongoing operations and fixed costs

- Funding that covers normal inflationary increases, utility costs, and facility leases
- Debt service payments for previously approved construction and renovation projects
- UW's share of the State's compensation reserve, including projected fringe benefit costs

If this funding for ongoing operations is not approved, it will result in cuts to current educational programs and student services at all UW institutions.