INFORMATION REGARDING BUDGET REPAIR BILL

Dear Faculty Colleagues:

In light of recent news about Governor Scott Walker proposing a Budget Repair Bill and the possible impact of that bill on retirement and health care benefits for state employees, including UWM faculty, the University Committee wants to provide guidelines to follow when contacting elected representatives as state employees.

As a state employee, here are some important points for faculty to keep in mind when contacting any elected official, including state legislators:

- Any and all contact with legislators must be during your personal time as a private citizen and using your own resources. Make sure the elected official understands that your viewpoint is your own and you are not speaking on behalf of the University.
- Do not use university resources such as computers, e-mails, letterhead, or postage when contacting legislators. To do so is inappropriate, counterproductive, and against University policy and state law.
- If you are a constituent of a particular legislator, make sure to share that status with them.
- Be honest, forthright, and polite when communicating with legislators.

If you are uncertain of who represents you, visit: http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/.

The Feb. 11 budget repair proposal by the governor is online: 
http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/journal_media_detail.asp?prid=5622&locid=177

The Feb. 11 response from UW System regarding the governor’s proposal also is online: 

The exact language of the bill can be found online at the Wisconsin State Legislature web site: 
http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ 
(insert "SB11JR1" in the "Bill search" function under "Legislation"

Thanks,

Mark

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