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Possible email text:

Introduce yourself and share that you are a UWM alumni and/or supporter.

Today I want to emphasize the role and importance of UW-Milwaukee to the region and the state. As one of the nation's top 131 research universities, we must retain and strengthen our exceptional faculty and staff. They profoundly impact the future of thousands of lives every day, along with vital business and community partnerships. Some star faculty and staff have been poached by universities that offer significantly higher salaries. This imperils our ability to maintain our research standing, to provide a high-quality education and create strong partnerships that are necessary for regional economic vitality.

Over 80% of UWM graduates stay in Wisconsin. No other campus has as many (5000+) students remaining here, joining the workforce annually. UWM has over 27,000 students from all 72 Wisconsin counties. UWM has a \$1.5 billion economic impact on Wisconsin.

I support the Board of Regents' budget request, including investing in capacity-building initiatives to add hundreds of students in high-demand fields such as nursing, computer and data sciences, water, and engineering. UWM has the largest nursing program in Wisconsin.

I support college affordability, though if tuition is frozen for a fourth consecutive biennium, UWM will desperately need the state to cover the tuition share. Support the proposed \$127 million GPR increase over two years. UWM is administratively lean & fiscally responsible, even in the face of challenging national trends and recent budget cuts.

Growing Wisconsin's talent pipeline requires a reinvestment in instructional and research spaces to train and develop graduates in high-demand areas.

UWM's Chemistry building is in the worst shape of any UW System science building. Built in 1972, it generates around 450 maintenance calls per year while serving 4700 students per year. Students and faculty members delay work because of mechanical problems. We need your support to replace this critical science building that is in danger of catastrophic failure.

Likewise, our budget request includes a critical investment in infrastructure repairs in our Student Union, which averages 22,000 daily visitors – to our knowledge, the highest traffic of any building in the UW System. UWM Union's, largely constructed between 1954 and 1969, is rated "F" for physical condition and "D" for functionality, while all other UW student unions have "A" or "B" ratings due to more recent construction or renovation.

Finally, I support the Klotsche Annex, a project paid with no, cash no bonding. UWM's current recreation space is 42% below national guidelines. The project will relieve recreational space currently used by Athletics. It will allow UWM to more efficiently serve small space uses, opening up the arena for large space uses. Please endorse the capital budget.