



STATEMENT BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF UW-SUPERIOR
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

We, the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Superior, are deeply concerned about the budget proposal from Governor Walker for the 2015-17 biennium. In particular, we strongly oppose the \$300 million cut to the University of Wisconsin-System because of the devastating impact it would have on our university and the system of public higher education we proudly belong to.

UW-Superior is the only four-year public institution located in the northern third of the state of Wisconsin. An invaluable asset to the citizens of northern Wisconsin, UW-Superior is an economic incubator, a center for culture and research, and a provider of high quality, student-centered education. Like all of the universities in the UW-System, we pride ourselves on the services and opportunities we provide to our community and region.

Over the last year and a half, UW-Superior went through a challenging campus-wide program review and budget process that resulted in a 9.5% reduction of our annual state funding. As part of this reduction, UW-Superior eliminated 34 faculty and staff positions, or 8.4% of our workforce. Several of our programs remain under review and face the distinct possibility of elimination beyond the Governor's current budget proposal. Cutting even more funding from our already lean budget would seriously jeopardize our very ability to provide the high quality, student-centered teaching we are known for. Therefore, the faculty of UW-Superior are extremely worried about the future of the university itself, were there to be additional cuts to our budget.

The faculty of UW-Superior are also concerned about the public authority model being considered for UW-System and the uncertainty surrounding its implementation. We believe a strength of the UW-System lays in its foundation in state statutes that insure the integrity of our universities, including the principles of tenure and shared governance stipulated in Chapter 36. We recognize this is unique in the field of higher education, but wish to point out that it is celebrated throughout the world as an effective and successful model. We believe the viability of the public authority model must be vetted in a transparent way before any commitment is made to its adoption and implementation.