

Statement of the UW-Milwaukee Distinguished Professors about the Proposed Changes to the UW-System

The UW-Milwaukee (UWM) Distinguished Professors unanimously oppose the governor's proposed budget cuts to the UW-System and the hasty transformation of the UW-System into a "public authority" without public input or discussion of its governance and financing plan. As a group, we are officially charged with actively promoting and encouraging the research of all UWM faculty, which is what provides students at all levels with cutting-edge course work, and also charged with promoting undergraduate and graduate student recruitment. Budget cuts coupled with tuition freezes over the last several years have already made both research and recruitment difficult. UWM lags far behind its peers in support for research, faculty and staff salaries, and stipends for graduate students, which means that it loses faculty, staff, and students to universities in other states where support for public education remains stronger. Thus many of the best and brightest, who could help Wisconsin prosper in the knowledge economy of the present and future, either leave or never come to Wisconsin in the first place.

The proposed budget cuts will make this situation even worse, and they hit UWM just as it is trying to build research infrastructure in many areas of immediate concern to the state and its citizens, including public health and water technology. Supporters of the governor's plan have asserted that it will cause no harm to UWM or its students, and that UWM will be able to continue its mission as a top-tier research university and as the campus within the UW-System that graduates more Wisconsin residents than any other. This is not true. As faculty at UWM who have spent our careers advancing knowledge, and who have brought millions of dollars in grants and contracts into the state to support the university and its students, we know that the governor's plan will instead lead to diminished opportunities for Wisconsin students to become competitive in the global economy. Uncertainty about UWM's future will translate into fewer donations from institutions and private donors, a reduced ability to recruit bright minds to bolster Wisconsin's economy, and an impoverished research base from which to pursue innovation and progress.

Margo Anderson	History, Urban Studies
Margaret Atherton	Philosophy
James Cook	Chemistry
M. Bahmani-Oskoe	Economics
Fred Eckman	Linguistics
Nadya Fouad	Educational Psychology
Jane Gallop	English
Arun Garg	Industrial Engineering
Fred Helmstetter	Psychology
John Heywood	Economics
David Hoeveler	History
Stephen Leeds	Philosophy

Abbas Ourmazd	Physics
David Petering	Chemistry
Paul Roebber	Mathematical Sciences
Pradeep Rohatgi	Materials Engineering
Dilano Saldin	Physics
Mark D. Schwartz	Geography
Robert Schwartz	Philosophy
Ehsan S. Soofi	Business Statistics
J. Rudi Strickler	Biological Sciences
Anastasios Tsonis	Mathematical Sciences
Wilfred Tysoe	Chemistry
Michael Weinert	Physics
Merry Wiesner-Hanks	History