



# BUDGET REQUEST TALKING POINTS

3/09/17

**Gov. Walker's recent budget proposal is an acknowledgment that the UW System plays a major role in spurring the state economy and we are very thankful for the commitment he has made to reinvesting in higher education in Wisconsin.**

The investment in the UW System includes restoring \$50 million that was lapsed back to the state in the last biennial budget and \$42.5 million in much-needed new funding.

It also contains funding for important UW–Madison programs: \$200,000 for the Wisconsin Rural Physician Residency Assistance Program and \$100,000 for Alzheimer's research at UW–Madison.

We will continue to make the case for the many positive impacts a thriving University of Wisconsin has across the state of Wisconsin and look forward to working with the legislators, the UW System, and our alumni and supporters during this next phase of the state budget.

## **A few items we will watch closely as the budget process continues:**

**COMPENSATION PLAN:** There is a general wage increase proposed for all state employees, but the increase for UW System employees is tied to savings generated from the state moving to a self-insurance model for health insurance. With some legislators questioning whether to move forward with a self-insurance model, it could mean the increase for UW employees is not funded.

**PERFORMANCE METRICS:** We agree that accountability measures for System schools are important, but those measures should be laid out by the Board of Regents, not in state statute. If there are additional factors the state would like tracked, we would be happy to work with them and the Board of Regents to make any needed changes.

**FACULTY WORKLOAD REPORTING:** UW–Madison faculty provide service to Wisconsin in three critical areas – teaching, research, and outreach. Each of these services is important so any method of tracking faculty workload should include all three areas, not merely time spent in the classroom.

**ALLOCABLE SEGREGATED FEES:** The proposal to let students opt out of allocable segregated fees may have unintended consequences and reduce the availability of needed services and programs including our on-campus bus services, VETS (Veterans, Educators, and Traditional Students), the Rape Crisis Center, GUTS (Greater University Tutoring Service), and support for programming among our registered student organizations.



# HOW TO SUPPORT UW-MADISON

3/09/17

## **Encourage Legislators to Support Gov. Walker's reinvestment in the UW-System:**

This investment by Gov. Walker is a welcome change to the cuts in state support in 10 out of the last 12 years (under both political parties), which created serious challenges for the entire UW System.

We've handled the cuts as well as possible, but they are impacting our students and threaten quality through loss of faculty and reputation.

We are an economic engine for the state of Wisconsin and we are educating the next generation of highly skilled workers to compete in the global economy.

Every dollar spent on UW-Madison generates \$24 for the Wisconsin economy by attracting other investments to the state, fostering startup companies that create new jobs, and supporting nearly 200,000 jobs around the state.

## **Get Involved in the Budget Process**

### ***Contact Your Legislators Today***

The budget bill now heads to the Joint Finance Committee, the legislative body that votes on fiscal matters. It will then be debated and voted on by the state Assembly and Senate before going back to Gov. Walker for his signature. Now is the time to **weigh in with a personal note in support of higher education and reinvesting in UW-Madison.**

You can find out who your legislators are by visiting <http://legis.wisconsin.gov> and plugging in your address in the "Find My Legislators" section.

## **Engage in Direct Advocacy Efforts**

### **ENCOURAGE SUPPORTERS TO SPEAK AT A BUDGET HEARING.**

Members of the Joint Finance Committee will host budget listening sessions in communities around the state (locations TBD) this spring. Encourage supporters around the state to register to speak on behalf of UW-Madison.

### **JOIN THE WAA ADVOCACY NETWORK AT [WWW.UWALUMNI.COM/SUPPORT/ADVOCATE](http://WWW.UWALUMNI.COM/SUPPORT/ADVOCATE).**

By signing up you will receive regular budget updates and have tools to easily contact elected officials throughout the budget period.

### **ATTEND UW LOBBY DAY IN MADISON ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017.**

The event, at the Madison Concourse Hotel, begins at noon with a lunch presentation by Chancellor Blank. Following lunch, you can join alumni to visit legislators in their offices at the state capitol. Learn more at [www.uwalumni.com/support/advocate](http://www.uwalumni.com/support/advocate).

For more information throughout the process, visit <http://budget.wisc.edu>