

For Immediate Release
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Finance Committee Republicans Give UW System Flexibilities and Eases Reductions

MADISON - On Friday, Joint Finance Committee Republicans restored \$50 million in state funding to the University of Wisconsin System. Republican leaders also created a number of flexibilities requested by the System, along with accountability measures to provide added transparency.

"One of our top priorities during the budget process has been to find a way to reduce the cut to the UW System," said Rep. Nygren. "Along with the flexibilities outlined in today's package, I think we are taking a step in the right direction."

"Not only were we able to restore \$50 million, we protected Wisconsin students and their parents," Senator Darling said. "The two-year tuition freeze and flexibility helps prevent costs from being shifted to students."

Some of the flexibilities include the ability to provide merit pay to UW staff and faculty, tools for chancellors to run effective and efficient campus operations, and the removal of the Building Commission process on certain projects.

"The accountability measures we outlined today provide both taxpayers and legislators with benchmarks to assess outcomes and effectiveness of the UW System," said Senator Harsdorf. "More transparency and flexibility will allow the UW System to make positive changes ultimately benefitting students."

Under the proposal, the UW System would have to conduct an independent financial audit and establish accountability measures in financial and administrative management, research and economic development, and educational performance.

"The UW System is an important asset to our state economy and provides our students with a world-class education," said Rep. Schraa. "The reforms and flexibilities we passed today will help the System continue to grow, innovate, and improve."

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