



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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## UW System Tenure Policy Remains Largely Unchanged

**Madison** – Wednesday, State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chairs of the budget-writing Joint Finance Committee, released the following statement addressing concerns regarding the UW System’s updated tenure policy:

“Prior to the 2015-17 state budget (Act 55), Wisconsin was the only state in the nation to have our respective university system’s tenure procedure codified in statute. The changes made by Act 55 align Wisconsin with every other state.

“Earlier this year, the Board of Regents approved two changes to the Regent Policy Document that pertains to tenure. First, they deleted unnecessary language that pertained solely to faculty that held certain positions during the 1970s. Needless to say, this language didn’t apply to anyone within the UW System. The second change allows for the dismissal of a tenured faculty member for “good cause.” Importantly, the Regents have outlined very specific guidelines that constitute “good cause,” and therefore are unable to dismiss tenured faculty at will.

“Aside from these two changes, the Regents’ tenure policy is virtually identical to what Wisconsin’s tenure policy had been prior to Act 55.

“We did not get rid of tenure; we simply took the specific tenure procedure out of statute, which is exactly the circumstance for all 49 other states in the nation. The result is that the UW System’s tenure policy is largely the same as what it had been before the last state budget was signed into law.”

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