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Statement of Representative Jerry O'Connor on Withholding UW Pay Raises

MADISON – As a member of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee, State Representative Jerry O'Connor (R-Fond du Lac) made the following statement regarding Assembly Speaker Robin Vos' plan to withhold pay raises from the UW System:

“The free speech hearings our committee held earlier this year show that DEI positions are not providing a return on the investment that's being put into them.

A recent article by the MacIver Institute on bloat in administration tells us the UW-System is spending more money on administration while the number of students decreases.

I support Chairman/Representative David Murphy's (Greenville) statement that 'The legislature has to do something to get the UW-System to put its priorities back in order.' Although the legislature oversees the UW-System, it has limited ability to affect how the university system spends its money.

I also believe withholding the pay raises is a means to prompt the university to funnel more money into the classroom and away from administrative positions that show no return and don't educate our children.”

The MacIver Institute article can be found at: <https://www.maciverinstitute.com/2023/09/topheavy-administration-declining-enrollment-driving-uw-systems-deficits/>

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The 52nd Assembly District includes portions of the City of Fond du Lac and the townships of Fond du Lac, Empire, Eden, Byron, Oakfield, Lamartine and Eldorado.