



DEVIN LEMAHIEU

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

December 18, 2024

President Jay Rothman
University of Wisconsin System
<<Delivered Electronically>>

President Rothman,

As I am certain you are aware, the State Building Commission failed to approve a motion to reutilize the \$70 million underspend available from the UW-Eau Claire Sciences Building. The vote will delay and imperil three major projects and a series of smaller, all agency, projects. The now delayed projects include the UW-Madison engineering building, which has been a long-time priority for Senate Republicans.

The Senate members' "no" vote stemmed from UW officials' lack of transparency and an inability or unwillingness to answer critical questions relating to these projects. Refusing to answer questions creates an adversarial relationship between the UW and the legislature that benefits neither us, nor the taxpayers who invest billions of their hard-earned dollars in your system each year.

The legislature is about to enter budget deliberations. The UW-System has requested nearly a billion dollars in new taxpayer resources despite shrinking enrollments and the closure of campuses. Taxpayers will rightfully demand transparency and candor from you and your representatives moving forward.

Once the UW-System has provided building commission members with adequate answers, I am hopeful that a motion to approve the engineering building at UW-Madison can be approved at a later date.

The University of Wisconsin System is a key economic driver for our state. Senate Republicans look forward to working with you and your office in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Devin LeMahieu".

Devin LeMahieu
Senate Majority Leader
9th Senate District