

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1997-08

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Education
(SC-Ed)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH (Public Hearing Announcements)

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
CLERK FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR (bills and resolutions)

➤ **

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **97hr_SC-Ed_Misc_pt43**



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Earl Muhlbauer
Executive Director

April 15, 1997

To Members of the Senate Education Committee

Senator Calvin Potter, Chair
Senator Robert Jauch
Senator Kevin Shibilski
Senator Richard Grobschmidt
Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Joanne Huelsman
Senator Carol Buettner

Thank you for the opportunity this past Wednesday, April 9, to share some observations with the Senate Education Committee relating to the Technical College elements in the 1997-99 state budget proposal.

This letter will recap the key elements of my remarks and make several recommendations for the Senate Education Committee and the Joint Committee on Finance to consider.

Faculty Development Grants (LFB Summary, page 658, item #3)

The Governor has proposed an \$832,000 annual appropriation to create faculty development programs. This program has three powerful goals:

1. Promote instructor awareness and expertise in a wide variety of emerging technologies.
2. The integration of learning technologies in curriculum and instruction.
3. The use of instructional methods that involve emerging technologies.

Wisconsin Technical Colleges have invested substantially in the enhancement of faculty skills over the past years. This proposal will assist each College in developing a teacher assistance center in the College.

The Technical Colleges strongly endorse the proposal and encourage the Legislature to maintain the Governor's recommendation and approve the allocation of \$1.64 million over the biennium.

April 15 1997

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Educational Telecommunications Access Program (LFB Summary, page 573, item #7)

The Governor is proposing that school districts be provided access to data lines and video links through the Department of Administration where individual entities would pay no more than \$250 per month for each data line or video link provided under the program. This proposal was implemented under the Universal Service Fund established in 1993, Act 496, which deregulated the telecommunications industry in Wisconsin.

The District Boards Association would request that the Legislature provide the same opportunity to Wisconsin Technical Colleges as is being proposed by the Governor for public schools in the biennial budget.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program (LFB Summary, page 482, item #31)

The Governor has proposed, through the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program, that 11th and 12th grade students be allowed to complete their high school education program at a Wisconsin Technical College. The Technical College District Boards Association has, for some time, endorsed this concept in working with the Technical College State Director, Ed Chin, and the State Board.

There are four specific items that we believe require emphasis or modification as the Legislature considers the Youth Options proposal.

1. **The question of who pays.** The proposal clearly outlines and places the responsibility for payment on the public school. We believe that this element is causing considerable consternation on the part of some public school superintendents, however, we must emphasize that the Technical Colleges continue to operate under difficult budget constraints and do not believe that it is realistic to propose or consider that the Technical Colleges should assume the cost of this program.

We would emphasize our long-standing position of support for the Youth Options program, however, the money must follow the student.

2. **Technical College materials fees.** The Governor's proposal is silent as it relates to the payment of materials fees required by Technical Colleges. We would recommend that the budget bill be amended to require the student to pay any materials fee prescribed by the Technical College.

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3. **Remedial education.** The Youth Options program was proposed to the Technical Colleges as a program to serve students who are academically qualified to enroll in associate degree or technical diploma courses. The Technical Colleges are required under 118.15 to serve public school students who are at risk and one grade behind in their high school program development. It is the Technical Colleges' clear understanding that the Youth Options program was not to provide remedial courses at Technical Colleges to 11th and 12th grade students.

We would strongly recommend that the Senate Education Committee review the issue and propose to the Chairs of Joint Finance that the bill be amended to include language which clarifies that remedial level courses are not eligible for the Youth Options program.

4. The budget bill appears to be silent as it relates to the start-up date of the Youth Options program. We would recommend that the bill be amended to indicate a starting date of Fall 1998.

Technical College General Aids Appropriation (LFB Summary, page 657, item #2)

The Governor's budget proposal includes a recommendation to increase general aids to the Technical Colleges by 1% in each year of the biennium for a total of 3.3 million new dollars.

A 1% increase in the general aids appropriation is of extreme concern to me relative to the state's commitment to the Technical Colleges to carry out its workforce training mission. I have been in 12 of the Technical College districts in the past two months meeting with members of the Legislature and business people and the message is always the same, "We need more trained workers." This budget asks the Colleges to continue their worker training mission with little new help from the state for four years. The end result is, the property taxpayer must support a larger part of the worker training taking place in the Technical Colleges.

District board members, presidents and faculty are proposing that the Legislature increase the Technical College appropriation by \$5.1 million, to 2.5% annually.

We respectfully request the Senate Education Committee to recommend to the Joint Committee on Finance that they carefully study the priorities in the 1997-99 state budget and move the Technical Colleges worker training mission to a higher level with a higher appropriation to assist the Technical College districts.

April 15, 1997
Page Four

Technical Preparation Programs (Tech Prep Councils) (LFB Summary, page 660, item #11)

Current law requires that Wisconsin Technical College System district directors appoint a Technical Preparation (Tech Prep) Council to coordinate the establishment of a Tech Prep program. In the 1993-95 biennial budget, the Legislature required and funded the development of Tech Prep consortia. In the 1997-99 budget, the Governor is recommending the repeal of the Tech Prep requirements.

I would suggest to the Committee that we are sending mixed signals to K-12 schools and Technical Colleges as to our commitment for them to work together in the Tech Prep programs.

If the Legislature wishes to encourage cooperative interaction, I would suggest that you propose the continuation of the Tech Prep Councils that bring the faculty of the Technical Colleges and the K-12 schools together.

Contracts for Youth Apprenticeship Instruction (LFB Summary, page 659, item #8)

The Governor is proposing the following modification:

Provide that if a WTCS district board contracts with a school board to provide youth apprenticeship instruction to pupils enrolled in the school district, the district board may not charge the school district an amount greater than the school district's average instructional cost per pupil, as determined by the State Superintendent, for each pupil receiving the instruction. This provision would first apply to contracts entered into, modified or renewed on the effective date of the bill.

This proposal raises a fundamental question: Why should a Technical College contract for youth apprenticeship instruction if they cannot recover their own basic instructional costs?

If the Governor and the Legislature desire to continue the youth apprenticeship program in Wisconsin, the Legislature needs to modify this proposal in the Governor's budget to allow the Technical Colleges to recover their full instructional cost.

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Page Five

In summary, Technical College district boards are committed to their worker training mission and the necessity to work with public schools in the delivery of educational opportunities. This letter outlines several areas where we believe the Legislature needs to modify the Governor's budget proposal. We would request the Senate Education Committee to make recommendations to the Joint Committee on Finance reflecting our proposed modifications.

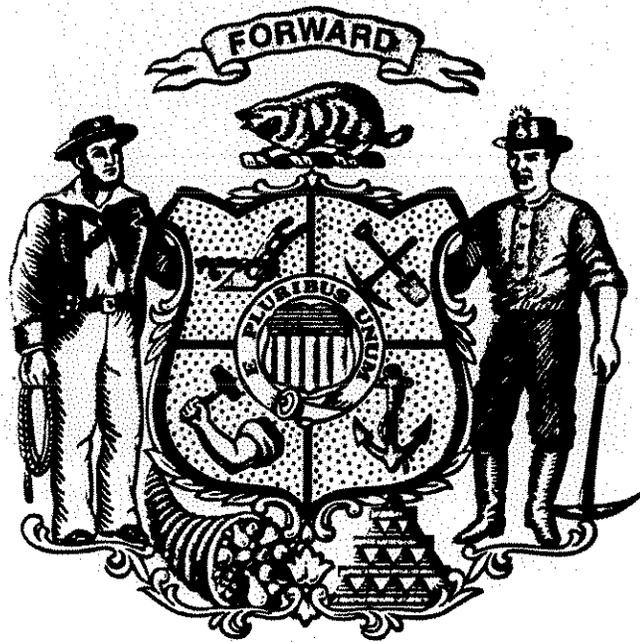
Thank you for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,



Earl Muhlbauer
Executive Director

EM:tjm





Wisconsin Technical College System Board

Edward Chin, State Director

April 15, 1997

Senator Cal Potter, Chairperson
Senate Education Committee
Wisconsin Senate
Room 407, 100 N. Hamilton
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Senator Potter:

At the Senate Education Committee hearing on April 9, 1997, Earl Mihlbauer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association, and I were asked questions regarding systemwide enrollments of welfare clients in the technical colleges, their participation in Basic Skills and GED courses, and specific data on Pierce and Fond du Lac Counties. Since Mr. Mihlbauer and I did not have the information immediately at hand, we indicated we would gather the data and forward it to the committee. We indicated that the only complete records we had were for 1995-96.

The process we used to gather the information was to match Department of Health and Family Services client data for AFDC and Food Stamp recipients against Technical College System student enrollment data. To answer the committee's questions, we provide the following:

Total welfare clients (AFDC and FS) served in the Technical College System, 1995-96: 31,587
Total number of those welfare clients taking Basic Skills courses only (12,680), GED courses only (223), or both BS and GED (4,342): 17,245
Total number of welfare clients (AFDC and FS) for Pierce (62) and Fond du Lac (405) Counties served by the Technical College System: 467
Total number of those welfare clients in Pierce (BS only - 12, GED only - 0, both BS and GED - 17) and Fond du Lac (BS only - 136, GED only - 2, both BS and GED - 100) Counties taking Basic Skills courses only, GED courses only, or both BS and GED: 267

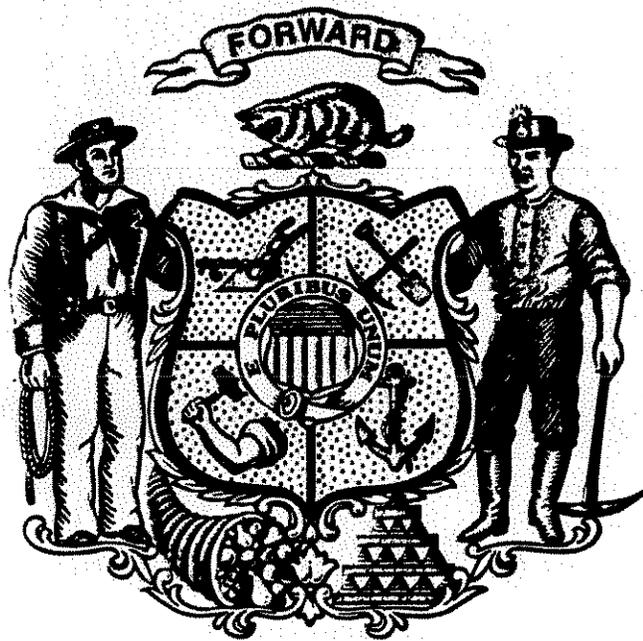
I hope this information addresses the questions raised. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for the committee's assistance over the years.

Sincerely,

Edward Chin
State Director

EC:DJJ

cc: Senator Carol Buettner
Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Richard Grobschmidt
Senator Joanne Huelsman
Senator Robert Jauch
Senator Kevin Shibilski
Russ Whitesel, Legislative Council
Earl Mihlbauer, WTC District Boards Assn.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



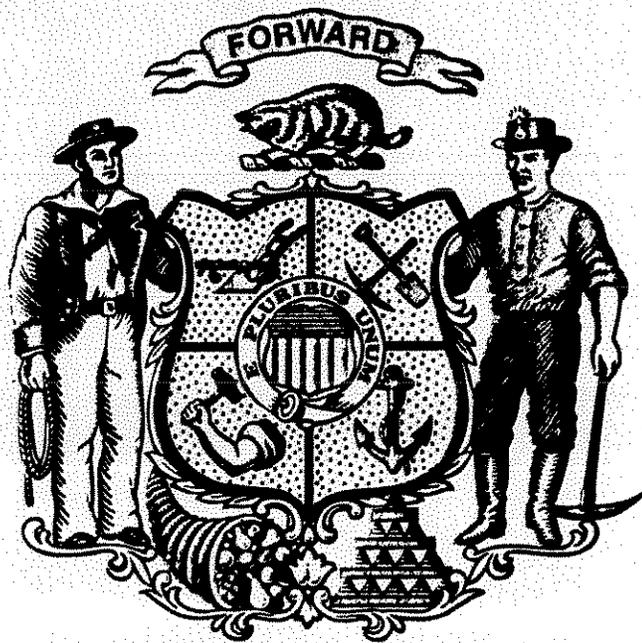
Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Senate Education Committee Members
FROM: Cal Potter
RE: Schedule Alert—May Hearings
DATE: April 16, 1997

We have been advised that session will not likely occur on Wednesdays during the month of May. Therefore, please plan on an Education Committee Hearing beginning in the morning on Wednesday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 28.

Please let us know if you have any questions.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

April 24, 1997

Senator Brian Burke, Cochairperson,
Representative Scott Jensen, Cochairperson
Joint Committee on Finance

Dear Senator Burke and Representative Jensen:

This letter is in response to your request for recommendations from members of the Senate Education Committee relating to the proposed 1997-99 Biennial Budget (Budget). The undersigned members of that Committee have formulated and support the recommendations contained in this document.

We have attempted, to the extent possible, to organize the document by agency levels and where necessary by individual topics.

A. EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS BOARD

We recommend that the TEACH Wisconsin Program be administered by the Educational Communications Board (ECB), rather than by the Department of Administration (DOA). We feel it is more appropriate to assign this function to a specific agency, rather than to a central administrative agency.

B. HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AIDS BOARD

It is the position of the Committee that, to the extent feasible, the grants and loans administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) should be adjusted to reflect the higher tuition charges being faced by students.

C. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

1. The Governor has proposed shifting the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) and the School-to-Work Programs out of the DPI and into the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), respectively. The Committee does not support this transfer and believes strongly that these programs should

be continued to be operated within the DPI. Moreover, if there is to be a consolidation of school-to-work programs, it would appear to be better public policy to consolidate these programs within the DPI, rather than in the DWD.

2. The Committee strongly supports the full funding of the Student Achievement Guarantee and Education (SAGE) Program. The Committee feels that this program has shown considerable promise for raising the performance of low-income pupils in the early grades and that the pilot program should be expanded as planned into grades two and three.

3. The Committee feels strongly that the Budget should provide a "sum sufficient" for the funding of the 2/3 of the school costs rather than providing as the Governor's Budget does for a "sum certain" appropriation. The Committee also supports the process currently in the statutes for adjustment of the state support each year with the participation of DPI, the Legislative Fiscal Bureau and DOA with approval by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC).

4. The Committee supports the recent action on the part of the JFC to take the limitations on the timing and scheduling for a referendum out of the Budget so that the issue can be considered separately on its merits.

5. With regard to the school aid formula, the Committee supports indexing the current per-pupil revenue cap of \$206 for inflation in the current biennium.

6. With regard to declining enrollment districts, the Committee supports some adjustment to permit districts greater flexibility in addressing the problems of reducing their budgets to reflect lower enrollments. One possibility in this area would be to use a four- or five-year rolling enrollment average rather than a three-year rolling average currently in the statutes.

7. With regard to the transfer of school services, the Committee supports the provisions contained in 1997 Senate Bill 120, which would repeal the provision requiring districts to reduce their costs by the amount of the costs incurred by the district to which a service (such as a special education student) is transferred. The Committee would support a return to the law as it existed prior to 1995 Wisconsin Act 27.

8. With regard to the graduation test, the Committee has serious concerns regarding implementation and timing of such an examination. The Committee has further concerns regarding the use of the test as a mandatory graduation requirement and as a replacement of the high school curriculum. The Committee recommends that the creation of a graduation test be postponed until the standards that will be used to evaluate high school students are further enumerated and established by the task force appointed by the Governor. To this end, the

Committee would support taking the current graduation test requirement out of the Budget pending the establishment of the standards. If such a state test is given, the Committee supports allowing a school district the option of administering their own test or the state test and supports allowing parents to request an "opt-out" for their children.

9. With regard to public school choice and the expansion of the charter law, the Committee recommends that these items be taken out of the Budget as policy items and considered on their own merits. Further, the expansion of charters within the Budget appears to be in violation of the limitation on the inclusion of private and local private bills within the framework of the Budget. This inclusion of private and local issues was the basis of the Dane County Circuit Court finding that the expansion of private school choice, even for nonsectarian schools, was illegally enacted.

D. LIBRARIES

1. The Committee fully recognizes the importance of libraries to the educational system and to the citizens of this state. While the Committee would support returning to the 13% state support level, the members are convinced that this can best be achieved through incremental increases over the next few biennia. The Committee endorses the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Public Libraries' conclusions regarding system aids which phases in increases in state public library systems to equal 11.5% of local and county operating expenditures for public library services for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99. The Committee also supports the recommendation that provides that the state public library system aids for 1999-2000 and subsequent fiscal years would be 13% of the total local and county operating expenditures for public library services.

2. With regard to the TEACH Program, we support the use of the first payment to TEACH Wisconsin from the current trust fund interest but not beyond this initial payment. The Committee has a continuing concern regarding the long-term use of library funds for nonbook purchases. Further, we believe that libraries should be eligible to participate in the TEACH Program. We believe it should be the policy of the state to ensure interconnectivity of all institutions, including the Wisconsin Technical College campuses, public and private colleges, as well as libraries. Further, we believe that there must be an assurance that every district that currently has access to the system is granted access to new services and support regardless of earlier contracts or grants. We feel that this is an equitable policy.

E. WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

1. The Committee has several concerns relating to the expansion of postsecondary options as proposed in the Budget. The Committee recommends that the requirement in

current law relating to "comparable courses" be reinstated. By removing this requirement, it appears that the Governor would create an incentive for the post-secondary institution to offer a course without a corresponding incentive for the school district to provide such a course even if there was sufficient demand. In addition, the Committee recommends that the postsecondary option expansion be available beginning in the fall of 1998, rather than attempting to implement the expanded program in the fall of 1997. It does not appear that there is adequate time to prepare for the probable expansion of the participants in this program by this fall.

2. The Committee has serious concerns regarding the state aid level for Wisconsin technical colleges. It is noted that the aid has dropped from 34% of total cost to approximately 25% over the past few biennia. Many technical college districts are facing the need to reduce programs with only limited flexibility in meeting local demand for courses and services. The Committee sees a need to study the state aid formula for the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to deal with not only the adequacy of state aid but also the method of distribution.

3. The Committee continues to have concerns regarding the added responsibility for the Youth Apprenticeship Program and the Wisconsin Works (W-2) Program--with the indirect program costs being shifted to the WTCS. In that context, the Committee also supports the expansion of W-2 to include greater educational options, particularly those available through the WTCS. Without adequate educational preparation within W-2, the long-term employment patterns for low-income workers are not likely to change significantly.

4. The Committee strongly supports the retention of the regional technical (Tech-Prep) preparation councils that the Governor has targeted for elimination in the Budget.

F. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM

1. With regard to faculty salaries, the Committee recognizes that the Budget does not provide funding for faculty salaries adequate to maintain the current competitive level of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System. In addition, the Committee feels that the added flexibility granted the Board of Regents should not result in shifting more of the costs to students through tuition increases, but should rather be used to expand those services that are a direct benefit to the students, such as those in the area of counseling and advising.

2. With regard to the UW-Extension, the Committee is concerned that the proposed Budget will have the effect of weakening a historically vital service within the state. The Committee notes that the Budget recognizes the need for administrative flexibility by granting the Board of Regents authority to reallocate funds for faculty salaries; the Committee strongly recommends that the Board of Regents be given the same flexibility to reduce system

expenditures to cover shortfalls, rather than having the Budget target specific divisions within a UW-Extension for disproportionate cost reductions.

3. With regard to the BadgerNet, the Committee reiterates its support for maximum interconnectivity and supports the policy of equal access to services and quality of performance.

4. The Committee recommends that the provision relating to DOA approval of administrative positions within the UW be removed from the Budget, allowing the UW the autonomy to make such decisions without specific DOA approval.

We hope these recommendations are helpful to you as you proceed with the review of the Biennial Budget. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, please feel free to contact us at your convenience.

Thank you for seeking our advice on these important issues.

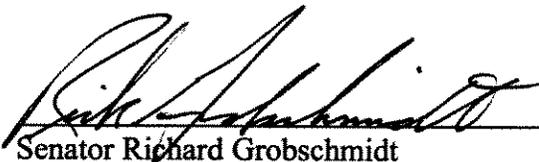
Sincerely,



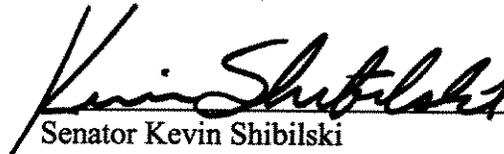
Senator Calvin Potter



Senator Robert Jauch



Senator Richard Grobschmidt



Senator Kevin Shibilski

We welcome the opportunity to share our views on selected education issues contained in the biennial budget. We generally agree with and support all of the recommendations of the Senate Education Committee, *except* for the following items:

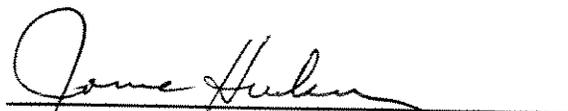
1. We do not support shifting the administration of the TEACH Wisconsin Program from the Department of Administration to the Educational Communications Board. *[Item A. in the attached letter.]*
2. We do not support the recommendation to retain the AODA and School-to-Work Program in DPI. *[Item C. 1.]*
3. We support the 2/3 funding obligation but do not agree with the recommendations relating to the calculation of school aids. *[Item C. 3.]* If, for example, a second year adjustment is warranted, the Legislature can make that determination without a mandated procedure.
4. We do not support the Committee's recommendation relating to the graduation test. *[Item C. 8.]*
5. We do not support the Committee's recommendation relating to public school choice and expansion of the charter law. *[Item C. 9.]*
6. While we recognize the importance of libraries, we do not support the Committee's specific recommendations relating to increased state aid support for libraries under the current budgetary restraints. *[Item D. 1.]*
7. We do not agree with the Committee's recommendation relating to faculty salaries; however, we are in support of the need for additional resources to support expanded counseling and advising for students. *[Item F. 1.]*

With the exception of these items, we are pleased to join in supporting the balance of the recommendations contained in the attached letter.

Sincerely,



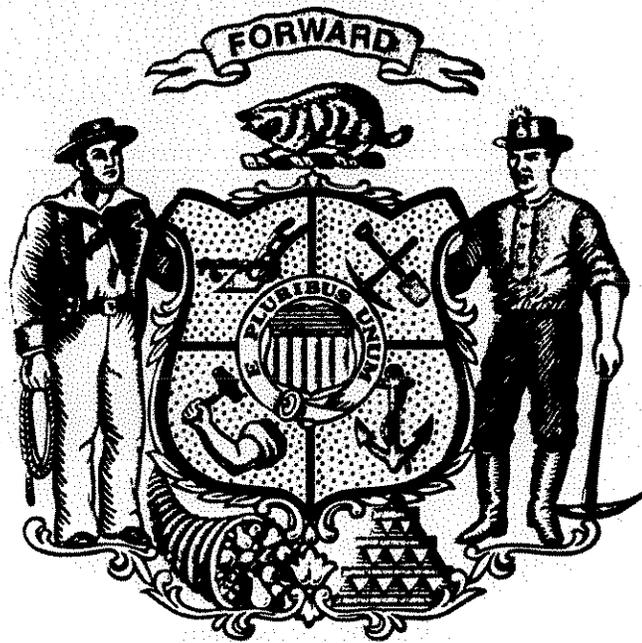
Senator Alberta Darling



Senator Joanne Huelsman



Senator Carol Buettner



CALVIN J. POTTER

State Senator

April 29, 1997



Wisconsin State Senate

Senator Brian Burke, Cochairperson
Representative Scott Jensen, Cochairperson
Joint Committee on Finance
119 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Senator Burke and Representative Jensen:

This letter is in response to your request for recommendations from members of the Senate Education Committee relating to the proposed 1997-99 Biennial Budget. Under separate cover we have sent you our recommendations relating to educational recommendations on a number of educational topics. However, due to the scheduling of our public hearings, we were unable to include any recommendations relating to the State Historical Society until now. The Committee heard public testimony at their April 23, 1997 meeting regarding the Governor's proposals relating to the State Historical Society.

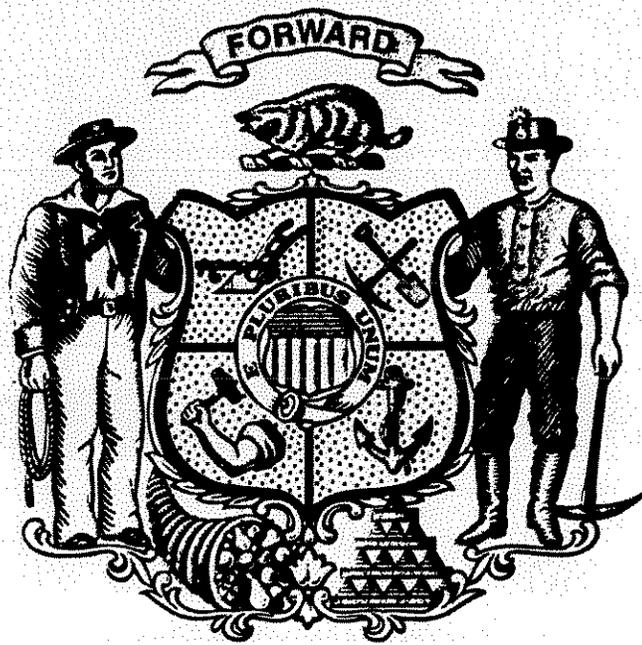
As a result of the hearing, the Committee would like to express its serious concerns about the impact of the proposed 2% reduction in the State Historical Society budget. While we understand that this is the same across-the-board reduction recommended for all state agencies, we feel that the State Historical Society, as a small agency, lacks adequate flexibility in its budget and staffing patterns to allow it to make such a significant short-term adjustment to its operating budget.

Therefore, the Committee asks that the Joint Committee on Finance carefully weigh the impact of this reduction before imposing it on the State Historical Society. Moreover, we understand from testimony provided at the hearing, that there may be some relief that could be obtained through the shifting of funds from proposed debt service payments to operating expenses. We encourage the Finance Committee to look with favor upon requests for additional funding for the State Historical Society and its important programs as budget decisions are being made. We will be glad to provide any assistance to aid the Committee in this effort.

Sincerely,

Senator Cal Potter for the
Senate Committee on Education

Senator Rick Grobschmidt
Senator Kevin Shibilski
Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Joanne Huelsman
Senator Carol Roessler



Committee Clerk

CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Education Committee Members
FROM: Cal Potter
RE: Hearing August 27, 9:30 a.m.
DATE: August 20, 1997

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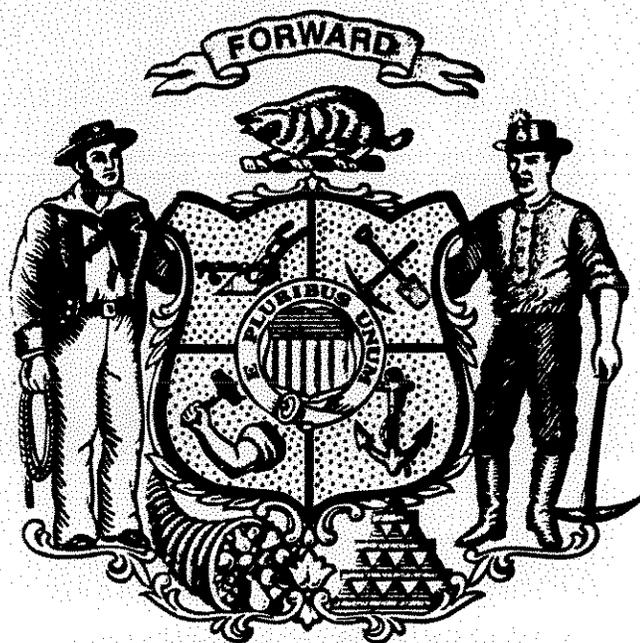
Here is some material for our hearing next week, including background information on two appointees, Toby Marcovich and Jenna Caulkins. I'm planning to take executive action immediately after the public testimony so please try to be there promptly at 9:30.

Also, please bring your copy of CHR 97-081 which was distributed prior to August 13 hearing. If you need another copy contact Committee Clerk Paul Rusk.

This will be a relatively long hearing with the bills heard in the order listed on the hearing notice. We will work through the lunch hour.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT OUR SEPTEMBER HEARING WILL BE HELD
SEPTEMBER 10 AT UW-MILWAUKEE.**

As always, please let us know if you have questions or need assistance.



Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative
357 North Main Street, Amherst WI 54406

Phone: (715) 824-6415 Fax: (715) 824-5323

May 12, 1997

Charles R. Peterson, Director
Center for Adaptive Education
and Assistive Technology
St. Norbert College
De Pere, WI 54115-2099



Dear Chuck,

I am writing to support the creation of a specific 858-Assistive Technology license by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. I think this new license will further encourage school personnel to pursue much needed training in assistive technology. The area of assistive technology is an important one because it is specifically defined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Because of this, parents of children with disabilities are increasingly requesting that school districts provide the assistive technology devices and services that are mandated.

Parents are repeatedly told in the literature, by advocacy groups and by the Parent Education Project that they should request someone "knowledgeable in assistive technology" to serve on m-teams and IEP committees. It is becoming increasingly important that school districts have staff that are trained in the use and application of assistive technology and that they have a way to document that training.

The assistive technology training program already developed at St. Norbert has made an important contribution to the assistive technology skill and knowledge of Wisconsin educators, but it has been within the Adaptive Education license. I believe that making it a separate license will more clearly define what it is and provide a recognized avenue for educators to document their expertise.

Making this a separate license would not in any way, allow an individual to practice in another field for which they are not already licensed, but rather, would demonstrate additional knowledge within their licensed area. For example, a special education teacher who obtained the 858-Assistive Technology license would not be qualified to determine appropriate seating and positioning, that would still be the domain of the occupational therapist. However, that teacher would have demonstrated and documented expertise about assistive technology and its application within the areas of reading, writing, mathematics, and studying, etc.

Finally, I believe that having such a license will provide better information to

administrators as they are recruiting and hiring special education and related services personnel to work in the schools. They will know that an individual holding this license has specific training in appropriate application and operation of assistive technology to improve a variety of functional abilities for children with all disabilities.

Currently there are two other assistive technology certification programs both of which are open to all disciplines. One is a national certification exam which was recently introduced by the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA). Passing that exam allows the person to write ATP (Assistive Technology Provider) after the other initials documenting their licensure (e.g. CCC-SLP, ATP). The other is a nine credit certification from the University of New Mexico through the Research Institute on Assistive and Training Technologies (RIATT) which offers training through distance learning and recently affiliated with NASDSE, the National Association of State Directors of Special Education. This, too, is a national program that education staff are turning to in order to have access to assistive technology licensure. I believe it is prudent to have a Wisconsin licensure available as a viable and visible alternative to these national programs

Sincerely,



Penny P. Reed, Ph.D., Director
Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative

Brown County Handicapped Schools

SYBLE HOPP SCHOOL
755 SCHEURING ROAD
DE PERE, WI 54115
TELEPHONE: 414/336-5754
FAX: 414/336-7262

BARBARA B. NATELLE
ADMINISTRATOR

JAMES R. KOHLMETZ
ASST. ADMINISTRATOR

May 6, 1997

Mr. Charles Peterson
St. Norbert College
Center for Adaptive Education
and Assistive Technology
100 Grant Street
DePere, Wi. 54115

Dear Mr. Peterson,

Currently, graduate programs for teachers and therapists of children with Special needs, take on a traditional role in course work with very little emphasis on technology. Research is telling us that assistive technology is not only essential in the lives of people with disabilities, and school curriculums needs to be adapted to include technology, it also states learning increases through its use

St. Norbert College is the only institution in the state with an assistive technology program. This program allows teachers and therapists of special children to learn the necessary skills to use assistive devices within their classrooms. St. Norbert College's Assistive Technology program fills the need identified by research.

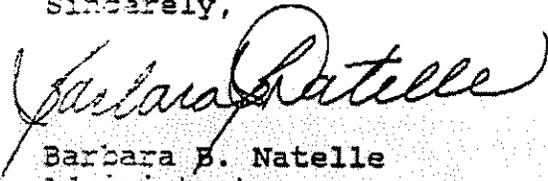
The Brown County HCEB serves 7 school districts in this County and several outside of the county. Technology is an integral part of programming for children with Special needs. On going education is needed to keep staff current of the latest developments and changes in assistive technology. We are impressed on how this is accomplished through drawing upon State Leadership to teach these classes.

Assistive technology is a vital component of the education of children with disabilities. By St. Norbert College extending its assistive technology program through offering classes in Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Amherst, and Oshkosh in addition to the programming offered on campus in DePere, special education staff and therapists in Wisconsin have the opportunity to learn new skills.

This program will affect over 100 educators in the Brown County system alone through the course work it offers. A new continuing educational option has been opened through the Assistive Technology program through functional, research based and timely course work.

Mr. Peterson, the St. Norbert College Assistive Technology Program is a unique program and certainly one of its kind in the State. I commend you for your fine work in this area and thank-you for your commitment, dedication and assistance in meeting the needs of Wisconsin's teachers.

Sincerely,



Barbara B. Natelle
Administrator



P.O. BOX 23387 • GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54305

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 200 S. BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54303

THOMAS M. JOYNT, Ph.D., SUPERINTENDENT
PHONE: (414) 448-2101

May 13, 1997

To Whom It May Concern:

The purpose of this letter is to recommend support for the creation of a specific assistive technology license by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

St. Norbert College offers an assistive technology program through its Center for Adaptive Education in Assistive Technology. Courses are offered in cooperation with local education agencies as well as Milwaukee Public Schools, Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative, Eau Claire Public Schools, and CESA #6. The program offers a unique opportunity for individuals to complete specialized training in assistive technology, to facilitate communication for students with exceptional educational needs. It is a unique program in that it provides general and special educators with skills and expertise to help create inclusive environments for students with disabilities to help them effectively participate in the general education mainstream to the fullest extent possible.

Approval of this certification is clearly the direction that the Department of Public Instruction needs to go to help create equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of ability or label.

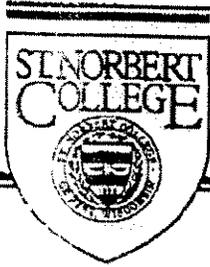
If you need further information on the topic, please feel free to contact me at 414-448-2080.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Zadnik".

David J. Zadnik, Ed.D.
Executive Director - EEN Programs/Student Relations

D. Zadnik



Teacher Education • St. Norbert College, 100 Grant St., De Pere, WI 54115-2099 • (414) 403-3004

May 14, 1997

Mr. Charles R. Peterson, Director
Center for Adaptive Education and
Assistive Technology
St. Norbert College
De Pere, WI 54115

Dear Mr. Peterson:

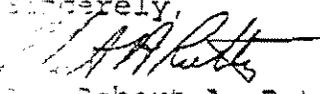
Having observed first hand the extraordinary work of the Center for Adaptive Education and Assistive Technology, I wholeheartedly endorse the proposal to create a separate and distinct Assistive Technology license (#858).

As you know, our Assistive Technology Program has grown significantly in recent years and now attracts substantial numbers of speech and language clinicians, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. The establishment of a separate license will not only help acknowledge more accurately the specialized nature of assistive technology training, but eliminates an unfortunate potential barrier to even greater participation by professional staff who are not licensed teachers. Previously, many well-trained professionals (e.g. physical and occupational therapists) complained that, although they were required to meet the same requirements, they were unable to acquire a credential sanctioned by the State of Wisconsin because they were not licensed teachers. At times this has caused participants to question the value of their participation in the full Assistive Technology Program or to seek less coordinated means to acquire expertise in this area.

I am confident that the establishment of a separate Assistive Technology license (#858) will pave the way to even greater participation by professional staff and teachers who work with students with exceptional educational needs. In short, establishment of this license will likely increase awareness and use of assistive technology and, as a result, enhance learning opportunities for students with exceptional educational needs.

Thank you for your efforts to establish this license.

Sincerely,


Dr. Robert A. Rutter
Director of Teacher Education

Madison Metropolitan School District

Doyle Administration Building
545 West Dayton Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-1995

Cheryl H. Wilhoite, Ph.D., Superintendent



May 16, 1997

Jacqueline W. Rodman, Team Leader
Teacher Education Team
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI. 53707-7841

Dear Jacqueline,

I am writing this letter in support of the creation of a specific 858-Assistive Technology license by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. The provision of appropriate Assistive Technology services has become a critical component in providing a free appropriate public education (F.A.P.E.) in the least restrictive environment (L.R.E.) for students with disabilities.

While the benefits of the provision of appropriate Assistive Technology services are well recognized, the pre-service preparation of educators has been inadequate. There is very little, if any, training provided in teacher training programs through out the state and nationally. To date, teacher training in this area has primarily been self initiated by professionals faced with an urgent and immediate "need to know" to serve specific students.

The benefits of licensure in this area are many. Without it, those of us in positions to hire currently have no way to assess the competencies of potential service providers in this area. Licensure would be a way to ensure that minimal competencies have been met by potential candidates. We have many Speech/Language therapists and Occupational and Physical therapists who have sought additional training in Assistive Technology who were prohibited from gaining Adaptive Education certification because it is an add on certification currently only available to teachers with teaching licensure. In many cases, these individuals have gained significant skills in Assistive Technology and have taken leadership roles within our district. As professionals seeking advanced training, they should be able to earn equivalent credentials.

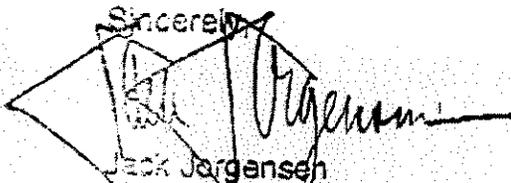
Additionally, the availability of licensure, and our hiring preference for those candidates who possess that licensure, would send a strong message to the post-

Success for All

secondary teacher/therapist training programs that this level of competency in Assistive Technology is important, and in fact, expected.

I hope that you will give support to the creation of a specific 858-Assistive Technology license. I believe it not only assists districts in hiring service providers with the specific competencies necessary to provide appropriate Exceptional Education Services, but ultimately provides our students with the tools and skills they need and deserve to reach their full potential.

Sincerely,



Jack Jorgensen
Special Education Coordinator
Madison Metropolitan School District
Doye Administration Building
545 W. Dayton St.
Madison, WI. 53703

CESA #12

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL
SERVICE AGENCY - #12

Fred J. Schlichting,
Administrator

618 Beaser Avenue
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
715-682-2363
Fax 715-682-7244

May 15, 1997

Mr. Charles Peterson, Director
Center for Adaptive Education and
Assistive Technology
St. Norbert College
DePere, WI 54115-2099

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I am writing to you in support of the proposed new Department of Public Instruction license in the area of assistive technology (#858 Assistive Technology). In my role as Director of Special Education for CESA #12 and six local school districts, I am seeing an increase in the need for information, training, and support in the area of assistive technology. Many questions pertaining to how to assess the child, how to make modifications to existing materials/equipment, identification of equipment, determining which pieces of equipment will work with which child, etc. are being raised. Schools continue to struggle with these issues. The Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (WATI) has begun to address these issues but does not have the staff or maybe even the long term financial support to continue to meet the increasing need. This will force local school districts to look at either hiring their own specialist or joining a collaborative effort. When utilizing the services of the WATI specialist we could be assured of a level of training and expertise of the individual hired. Once this support service is gone, how will districts/CESA's make determination on candidates that apply for assistive technology positions? Having a DPI license will begin to provide assurance to schools that this individual has at least a basic level of understanding and experience in the field.

Another reason I support this new license is that it will encourage local district/CESA staff to go back and take additional training in this area. Most of the teachers in the State of Wisconsin are on a five year license, which means that they must complete six semester credits over a five year period. I believe that there are individuals in this group who have the interest in working in the area of assistive technology. Having the ability to work toward a license in assistive technology would motivate some of them to go back and complete this new license. There are several reasons why a person may feel motivated to do this:

- 1) They are presently working with students who require the use of

Bayfield
Butternut
Drummond
Childs
Hoywood
Hurley
Maple
Mellen
Mercer
Northwood
Park Falls
Plover
Solon Springs
South Shore
Superior
Washburn
Winter

"School Districts Working Together"

Asististive Tech Support

May 16, 1997

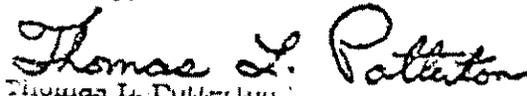
Page 2

- assistive technology equipment and the individual needs more information.
- 2) They will be working with students who require these services/equipment;
 - 3) They may be facing a elimination or reduction in time and this may provide them and/or the district(s) they serve more options;
 - 4) Some of these individuals may be looking for a job change and this would increase their marketability; and
 - 5) Individuals who worked for multiple school districts would be able to provide more services and the license would document a level of expertise. School districts and students requiring the use of assistive technology would also benefit by an increasing number of individuals within the state and local school districts who have a higher level of skills in the use of this type of equipment.

I strongly support the initiation of this new license and would encourage my staff and the staff member of local school districts with which I serve to support and take advantage of this opportunity if/when it becomes available. I believe it will truly improve the availability and the level of services to students who require the use of assistive technology. If I can be of any assistance or you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 715-682-2363 Ext. 113.

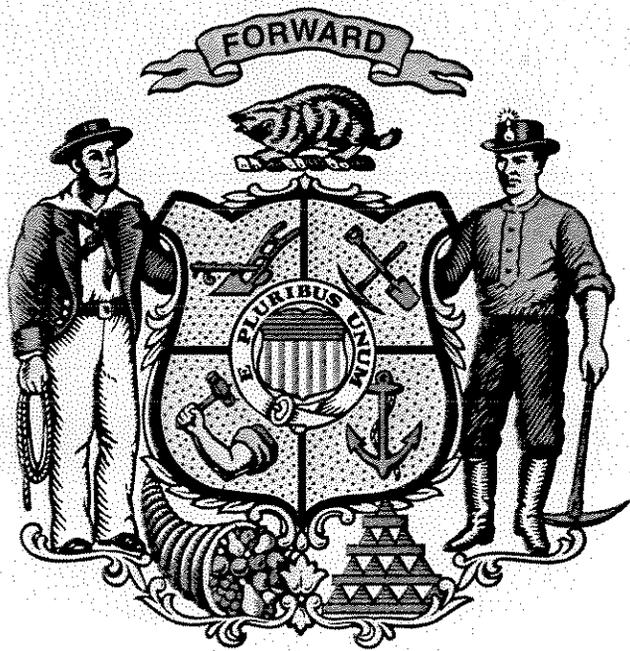
Please keep me posted on how the procedure for acceptance of the proposal is proceeding.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Patterson
Director of Special Education
CESA #12

TP:skm





United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

122 State Street, Suite 500, Madison, WI 53703 Phone: (608) 263-3422 Fax: (608) 265-4070

September 11, 1997

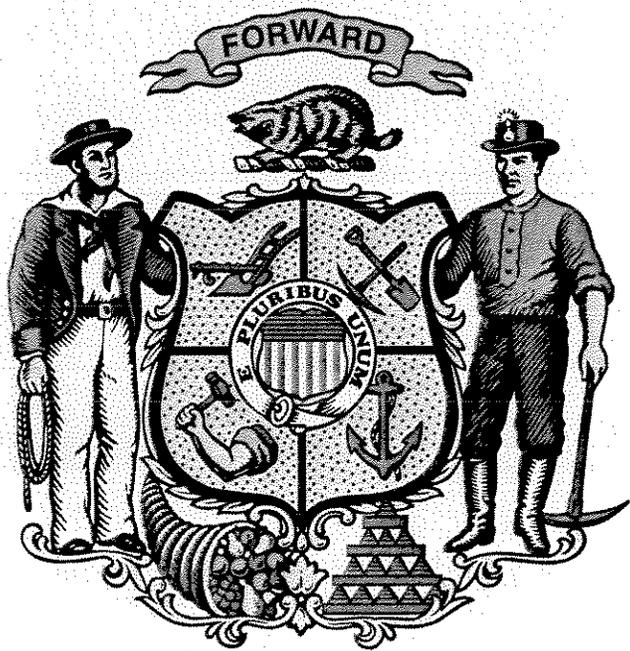
To: All Legislators

From: Steve Perala, Legislative Affairs Director

RE: UW Tuition Increases

United Council has used average tuition (7.9%), room, and board (6.9%) increases over the last 15 years and projected the result of future increases for today's children and their families. The attached chart shows what a child would pay for college tuition if these averages continue over the next 15 years. As you can see, a child who is born today would pay more than \$25,000 per year in tuition, room, and board costs to attend a UW institution when they reach 18 years of age.

This is an alarming trend and one that needs to be corrected in the current budget. Please do anything in your power to keep these tuition increases moderate and eliminate tuition flexibility from the budget. Your support is appreciated.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator

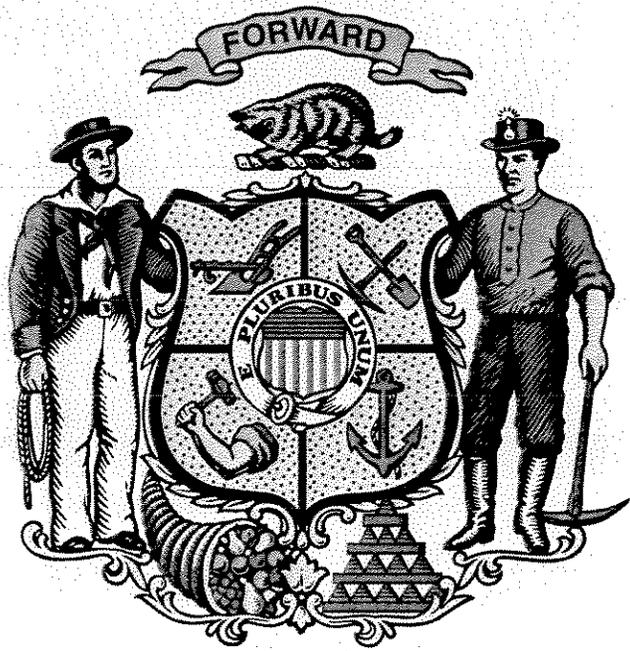


Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Education Committee Members
FROM: Cal Potter
RE: HEARING OCTOBER 22
DATE: September 24, 1997

Please remember that we are planning a public hearing for **Wednesday, October 22 at 10 a.m.** We will keep you posted as to agenda items.



Copy

CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

February 17, 1998

Margaret Lewis, Associate Vice-President for University Relations
University of Wisconsin System
Room 1844 Van Hise Hall
UW-Madison
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear Margaret:

To follow up on our recent phone call, enclosed is a Education Committee hearing notice for February 25. We appreciate your help in arranging for University of Wisconsin System participation in the Budget Repair Bill Briefing Session to begin at 9 a.m. We hope to complete this portion of our activity at approximately 10:30 a.m.

We have made arrangements with the Department of Administration to provide background information on the Governor's proposed budget relating to the UW System, Department of Public Instruction, and the Technical College System. In the interests of time we thought it best to have DOA brief the committee on all three areas first before we move to agency comments. The UW System will be first followed by the DPI and then the Technical College System.

Probably the biggest item of interest to the committee is the tax credit issue, but please feel free to also comment on other UW budget items the committee should be aware of. Hopefully this budget briefing will facilitate quality discussion about budget issues facing the UW.

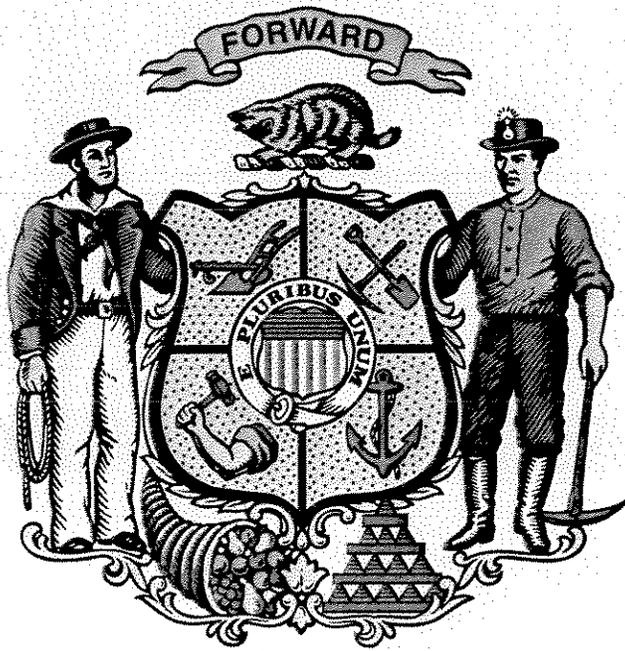
I understand President Lyall is not available on this day. We would appreciate your letting Committee Clerk Paul Rusk know who is coming for the UW a few days before the hearing.

Thank you again for your assistance. Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

CALVIN POTTER
State Senator
9th Senate District

CP/pr Enclosure



DRAFT

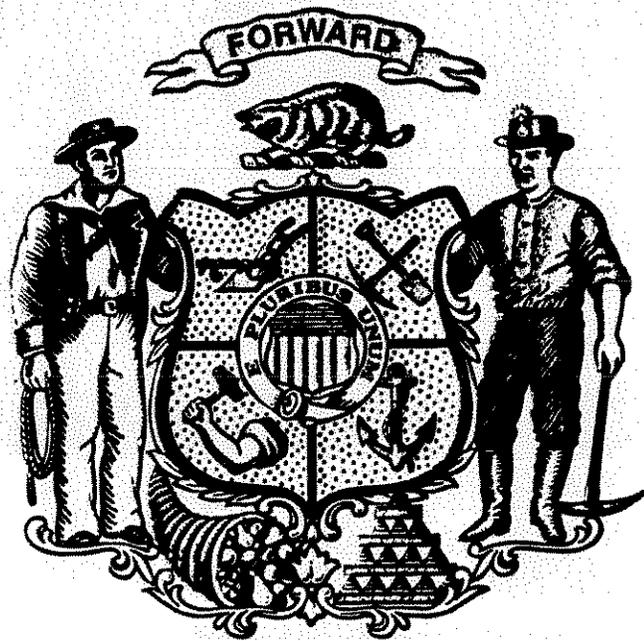
MEMO

TO: All Members of the Education Committee
FROM: Cal Potter
RE: Hearing For Wednesday
DATE: March 10, 1998

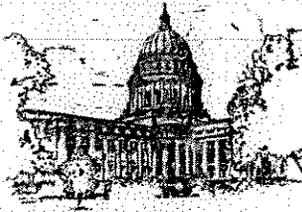


1. Here is the Truancy Sub Senator Darling put together. Hopefully we will have a Legislative Council memo for our Executive Session tomorrow. Please note we have noticed the Executive Session for **10 a.m.** so there is time to deal with any changes before Organization meets at 4 p.m.
2. Unfortunately there is a lot of misinformation circulating about SB 274, the student discipline bill. You all have updated memos from Russ Whitesel dated March 9. We reported out LRBs0253/6. **If you receive comments about a draft without a slash 6 please be sure your colleague is referred to the correct version. I am enclosing a copy which should be in your bill file by now to be absolutely sure you have the correct version.**
3. Enclosed is Becky Young's sub to AB 423 (SB 192) regarding expulsions and special education programs. We should soon have a memo from Jane Henkel. We can talk about Rep. Young's approach tomorrow. If there is committee support we can schedule a paper ballot or executive session as the bill will need to go to the Joint Committee on Finance.

If you have any questions please call.



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



February 13, 1998

Wisconsin State Senate

Robert Hanle
John Koskinen
Department of Administration
101 East Wilson, 10th Floor
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAIL

Dear Bob and John:

The Senate Committee on Education has scheduled a Budget Repair Bill Briefing Session on items relating to the University of Wisconsin System, Department of Public Instruction and Technical College System to begin at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25 in the Joint Finance Area of 119 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Following the budget briefing we will have a public hearing on other legislation before the committee. In the past we have found briefing sessions to be very helpful to committee members and others who listen in on the public address system.

We would appreciate members of your respective teams briefing the committee on items pertaining to these agencies. Since the tuition tax credit issue impacts both DPI and the UW System it is fine to treat this item together. I think it would be best for DOA to brief the committee on all three areas before we hear from agency representatives. Probably the tax credit issue will be of greatest interest to the committee.

I will leave the specifics of the actual order of how to cover these issues to you. If you could confirm who is coming and the approximate order with Committee Clerk Paul Rusk a few days before the hearing we would appreciate it. If we get started at 9 a.m. I would hope this part of our activity could be completed by approximately 10:30 a.m.

Thank for your assistance with this matter. I'm sending a copy of this letter to the Legislative Fiscal Bureau should they wish to be available for questions. Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

CALVIN POTTER
State Senator
9th Senate District

cc: Bob Lange, Legislative Fiscal Bureau CP/pr