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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

1997-98

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Education...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (December 2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Senate Bill 490

Relating to: Downer Woods on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

By Senators Grobschmidt and Darling; cosponsored by Representatives Wasserman and Walker, by request of the the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee.

March 10, 1998 Referred to committee on Education.

March 11, 1998 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch, Shibilski, Grobschmidt,
Darling, Huelsman, Roessler and Fitzgerald.

Absent: (0) None.

Appearances for

- William Mayrl for UW-Milwaukee
- Jim Reinartz for UW-Milwaukee Field Station
- Karla Ashenhurst for UW-Milwaukee
- Claude Scchuttey for UW-Milwaukee

Appearances against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations for

- Margaret Lewis for UW System

Registrations against

- None.

March 18, 1998 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Present: (5) Senators C. Potter, Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman
and Fitzgerald.

Absent: (3) Senators Jauch, Shibilski and Roessler.

Moved by Senator Grobschmidt, seconded by Senator Darling, that

S0650/1 be recommended for introduction and adoption.

Ayes: (8) Senator C. Potter, Jauch (by polling), Shibilski (by polling), Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman, Roessler (by polling) and Fitzgerald.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0, Absent 0

Moved by Senator Grobschmidt, seconded by Senator Darling, that **Senate Bill 490** be recommended for passage as amended.

Ayes: (8) Senators C. Potter, Jauch (by polling), Shibilski (by polling), Grobschmidt, Darling, Huelsman, Roessler (by polling) and Fitzgerald.

Noes: (0) None.

Absent: (0) None.

PASSAGE AS AMENDED RECOMMENDED, Ayes 8, Noes 0, Absent 0

Paul Rusk
Committee Clerk





DATE: March 6, 1998

RE: Sandburg Hall/Downer Woods legislation -- SB 490

You are invited and encouraged to attend an informational meeting on **FRIDAY, MARCH 13th at 2:00 pm** to discuss SB 490, the enabling legislation which would allow UWM to construct a fourth tower in the area east of the present dorms. The meeting will be held in the Sandburg Dorms, in the Flicks. Senators Rick Grobschmidt and Alberta Darling and Reps. Sheldon Wasserman and Barbara Notestein and other elected officials will be present. The date was picked by the elected officials.

The elected officials asked us to host this important informational meeting. The date was just set today, and we wanted to share this with you right away.

SB 490 will designate 2.6 acres at the corner of Hartford and Downer Avenue as a protected area and create a management plan for the Downer Conservancy and will allow construction on .75 acres presently designated Downer Recreational space.

The Senate Education Committee, which is holding a public hearing on the bill on March 11th in Madison, will not vote on this issue until sometime after the March 13th informational meeting. We received notice late yesterday that the hearing had been scheduled.

We hope to see you on March 13th.



Assistant Chancellor
For Administrative Affairs



March 10, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Cal Potter
Wisconsin State Senate

FROM: 
Donald G. Melkus
Assistant Chancellor

Please be advised that the fiscal impact of senate bill 490 is estimated to be between ten and fifteen thousand dollars per year.

This amount will be absorbed within the university's budget. The university will reallocate ten to fifteen thousand dollars per year to the UWM Field Station consistent with the management plan required by senate bill 490.

c: John H. Schroeder, Chancellor
William F. Mayrl, Assistant Chancellor
Sandra Hoeh-Lyon, Assistant Chancellor
James Reinartz, Senior Scientist, Field Station





State Representative
Barbara Notestein

March 10, 1998

Sandra Hoeh-Lyon
Assistant Chancellor of University Relations
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
2310 E. Hartford
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Dear Sandra:

Thank you for sharing with me the proposed bill draft related to the dorm construction in the Downer Woods and the bill draft.

I have numerous questions pertaining to both and hope that you may provide me with answers.

1. Lines 14-17 of the bill describe a Downer Woods natural area management and restoration plan.
 - * By what date will the plan be developed?
 - * Will the development process require funds?
 - * Who must approve the plan before it is implemented?
 - * Is there any intent to review and update the plan periodically?
 - * How will implementation of the plan be funded and from what sources?
 - * Will planning or implementation be contingent upon the receipt of any new funding or staff positions?

2. Lines 7-10 describe park and woodland areas, "which may be subject to limited modifications, such as landscaping and utility lines."
 - * Could the modifications be limited to only landscaping and utility lines? As phrased, this language implies the possibility of other types of modifications which may not be anticipated now.
 - * What type of utility lines are possible?
 - * Could this involve work on underground lines, necessitating the removal of trees or other plant life?

3. Lines 1-5 of the bill differ somewhat from the language first proposed in the draft. The bill draft stated:

A temporary easement sufficient for material assembly and construction staging for the Sandburg Addition shall be granted to provide working

easement shall be conditional upon the ecological restoration of the area within the easement.

The bill grants an easement, not only sufficient for original construction, but also for maintenance.

* What type of maintenance is anticipated and how will this make use of the easement?

I understand the vital nature of this project to UWM. However it is also important that the language of the bill protect Downer Woods from future encroachments. Whenever possible, I would like it tightened to avoid any ambiguity.

I am also concerned that future budget or staffing problems not result in a failure to implement the Downer Woods management and restoration plan. The University must make a permanent commitment to the Woods.

I appreciate your assistance with this request and look forward to your response.

Very truly yours,



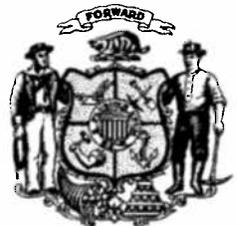
BARBARA NOTESTEIN
State Representative
19th Assembly District

BN:hmw

cc. Chancellor John Schroeder
Senator Richard Grobschmidt
Senator Alberta Darling
Senator Calvin Potter
Representative Sheldon Wasserman



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





**Testimony of Karla Ashenhurst
Community & Governmental Relations Liaison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Senate Education Committee hearing -- Wednesday, March 11, 1998
Senate Bill 490**

Chairman Potter and Senate Education Committee members, thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 490 -- a critical bill to the future growth and development of the UWM student body.

As you heard from Assistant Chancellor Bill Mayrl and Jim Reinartz, SB 490 provides UWM with two opportunities:

- **Increases the acreage of the Downer Woods and allows for protection and management of the conservancy portion of the Downer Woods, and;**
- **Allows construction of a much-needed dormitory for its students.**

Why doesn't UWM build the dorm at the corner of Hartford/Maryland Avenues?

- **The 2.6 acres at corner of Hartford and Maryland Avenues is a highly utilized campus green space. Students study, play frisbee, enjoy the sun, eat lunch and socialize in the area, which is surrounded by a canopy of large trees. UWM does not want to destroy this beautiful green space by building a dorm there; as SB 490 states, we want to restrict that area from development. The .75 acres to the east of the current dorms provide an ideal setting for the dorm, both programmatically and aesthetically.**
- **The UWM neighbors, with whom we work very hard to maintain a good relationship, do not want a dorm built at the Hartford/Maryland corner, because it would be visually destructive to the neighborhood.**
- **Constructing the 4th tower east of the existing towers is the most logical, from a programmatic perspective, an aesthetic perspective, and now that UWM will increase the acreage of the Downer Woods, it's the most logical option from an environmental perspective.**

In 1992, at the request of Bryce Styza of the State Building Commission, Arthur Andersen and Co. published a dorm feasibility study, which included research regarding the possible impact on private landlords. The feasibility study proved UWM's significant need to add on-campus housing and found no reason to anticipate any adverse effects on off-campus housing.

As the Community and Governmental Relations Liaison at UWM, watching the process in which the various groups involved helped to design this legislation has been fascinating. Never before have I witnessed such a complete effort of government, university officials, neighbors and activist groups working together to reach a compromise.

It is important to emphasize that this is not just another construction project. It is a plan to permanently *protect* and *enhance* the character of the Downer Woods and it is a plan which will allow UWM to build a dorm to meet the needs of our students, who are our *customers*.

The Building Commission has already approved UWM's plans to build a dorm. Now we need your vote for the statutory relief to make it happen. On March 13, UWM is hosting an informational meeting on the campus. After that, you will have the opportunity to vote on SB 490. The Board of Regents unanimously supports the legislation, and I hope you will as well.

I appreciate having this opportunity to testify in favor of SB 490 and would be pleased to answer any questions.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHANCELLOR
P.O. BOX 413 (Chapman Hall 180)
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201
FAX: (414) 229-6261

TO: Paul Rust

FROM: Karla Ashenurst

Number of pages (including cover): 3

MESSAGE: Melissa Kepner: 608/263-4398

Have a great weekend, Paul.
Thanks for everything!!!
Karla

PHONE: (414)229-4035

SANDRA HOEH-LYON
MAUREEN BURKE

229-4451
229-5673

KARLA ASHENURST
BEA BOURGEOIS

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Please call for assistance if transmission is incomplete.

Post-It Fax Note	7671	Date	3/11/98	# of pages	1
To	Mike Rupp	From	Melissa Kepner		
Co/Dept	UW-MIL	Co.	UW SYS.		
Phone #		Phone #	608/263-4398		
Fax #	229-4553	Fax #	265-3175		

March 11, 1998

To: Marcia Bromberg
Margaret Lewis
Kathi Sell
Mike Rupp
Nathan Peters
Joan Westgard
David Miller
Charlie Toulmin

X.C. DON MELKUS
KARLA ASHFENHURST.
MJK
3/11

From: Melissa Kepner *MJK*

Re: Draft Fiscal Estimate for LRB 4996/3

Attached, for your review, is a draft fiscal estimate for LRB 4996/3, relating to changes in Downer Woods. Mike Rupp at UW-Milwaukee has indicated that the cost of the proposal would be absorbed by UW-M.

Please let me know if you have comments or questions by 10 a.m. on Friday, February 13, *March*

Thanks for your help.

Draft Fiscal Estimate for LRB 4996/3

Current law requires the preservation of Downer Woods on the UW-Milwaukee campus. Downer Woods is divided into four categories: the permanent conservation area, permanently-reserved woodland, the park and woodland areas, and the buildings and grounds of the former downer college.

LRB 4996/3 would add 2.6287 acres to Downer Woods. The additional acreage would constitute a fifth category: park and woodland areas that may be subject only to limited modifications, such as landscaping. The bill would also allow 0.75 acres of the portion of Downer Woods designated as permanently-reserved woodland to be used for an addition to Sandburg Hall, a UW-Milwaukee dormitory. The bill would direct the Board of Regents to grant a temporary easement to allow construction of the addition, and at whatever time Sandburg Hall needs maintenance, conditioned upon the ecological restoration of the area within the easement. The bill would also direct the UW-Milwaukee Chancellor to prepare and implement a Downer Woods natural area management and restoration plan to ensure that the conservation area is managed properly as a natural area.

One provision of LRB 4996/3, the requirement for preparation and implementation of a natural area management and restoration plan, would have a fiscal impact on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. UW-Milwaukee estimates that implementation of the plan would cost an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually. This cost would be absorbed.



Summary of Testimony by Assistant Chancellor William Mayrl on

Senate Bill 490: March 11, 1998

- **UWM has a need to add 400 beds to its present on-campus housing capacity of approximately 2100.**
- **In 1992, a report prepared for the Senate Department of Facilities Management by Arthur Anderson and Company correctly projected that the demand for on-campus housing at UWM would increase substantially beginning in the mid-1990s. In fall of 1996, more than 100 students who requested rooms in Sandburg Halls were turned away. The following year that number increased to almost 300 in spite of the fact that 100 additional beds had become available in an area previously occupied by administrative offices.**
- **The increase in demand for on-campus housing is directly related to growth in the UWM freshman class. In 1995-96, the number of new freshmen at UWM grew by 10%. The following year saw another increase of 13%. And this year's class exceeded last year's by more than 10%. Currently, there are about 700 more new freshmen at UWM than there were in 1994-95. Admission reports for 1998-99 show an 8% increase in new freshmen applications.**
- **Important programmatic and academic benefits can result from an increase in the number of resident students at UWM. On-campus living is positively correlated with full-time student status, higher GPAs, higher rates of retention and timely graduation, as well as increased involvement in campus social, cultural and recreational activities. Resident students enhance the quality of the campus learning environment for all students. For this reason, The Strategic Plan for the Future of UWM, published in 1996, includes the expansion of the residence halls as an important initiative.**
- **Many parents of prospective freshmen tell us that the decision of their son or daughter to attend UWM will depend upon the availability of on-campus housing. This year, 55% of the Sandburg residents are freshmen and 30% are sophomores; the average age is 19. It is clear that the residence halls at UWM play an important role in the transition of our younger students from home to independent living.**





3095 BLUE GOOSE ROAD
SAUKVILLE, WISCONSIN 53080
(414) 675-6844
FAX (414) 675-0337

Memo

To: Wisconsin Senate Education Committee
Reviewing Senate Bill 490

From: James A. Reinartz, Senior Scientist
UWM Field Station Resident Biologist and Manager
e-mail: jimr@uwm.edu

Date: 11 March 1998

I submit this as written testimony concerning SB 490, a proposed act to amend 36.87 of the statutes, relating to Downer Woods on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. I have reviewed what is known of the ecological history, and present condition of the woods, and would like to comment on the proposal to begin appropriate management of the area. My comments here refer to the 11.1 acre, fenced, permanent conservation area.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee acquired Downer Woods in 1964. At that time the vegetation of the forest reflected the disturbance the forest had received during over 200 years of human usage. Large open-grown oak trees suggest that the woods had been partially cleared by the mid-1700's, probably as the site of a Native American settlement. In the late 1800's the area was pastured as a dairy farm. Without this disturbance, woodland succession in this area would have produced a forest dominated by sugar maple and American beech. The early disturbance converted the forest to the oak, white ash, basswood forest present in 1964.

From 1964 to the early 1980's Downer Woods was used extensively by UWM classes. In the mid-1980's this usage declined primarily because the forest had become so infested with introduced aggressive shrubs (honeysuckles and common buckthorn). The previous disturbance, which had prevented development of a "climax" beech-maple forest, had left the site open for invasion by these exotic shrub species. The forest was not managed in any way because the ecologists who used the forest understood that the legislation which protected the woods also prohibited any active management involving the destruction of living plants, including the exotics which were choking the forest.

No natural area in southern Wisconsin can sustain high quality native communities without management because of the constant onslaught of invasion by aggressive non-native species. Areas which have had a history of disturbance are especially sensitive to being degraded by exotic plants. Downer Woods has several current problems due to its neglect over the past 30 years: 1) severe infestation by common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), 2) localized but dense patches of the non-native herb, garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), 3) infestation by exotic honeysuckles (*Lonicera tatarica* and *L. X bella*), primarily in the western part of the forest, and 4) uncontrolled



trails through the forest. These are all common problems in southeastern Wisconsin woodlots which are not managed as natural areas. I do not want this list of serious problems to convey the impression that restoration of a high quality natural area in Downer Woods is hopeless. I have written, and implemented, management plans for other similar properties in our area where relatively rapid progress has been made at improving natural area quality.

Although the condition of the Downer Woods plant community is seriously degraded, the natural area is still of considerable value due to, 1) its location in a completely urbanized area, 2) despite historical disturbance and lack of management, the forest still contains a relatively high diversity of native plant species, and 3) long-term baseline data dating back over 30 years give the forest tremendous potential for further studies of changes in the plant community, or for studies of the effects of management on plant community composition. The forest still harbors many components necessary to restore Downer Woods to a high quality natural area.

Downer Woods has tremendous potential to contribute to the UWM campus environment and to be useful for the University's educational and research programs. With a long-term commitment to appropriate management, Downer Woods could become the natural area "jewel" of the UWM Campus, adding a high aesthetic value which would figure prominently in the overall perception of the campus environment. In its present neglected condition the woods is not of much use to classes; with appropriate management, its value to ecology education on campus will be restored. Downer Woods could be especially valuable for studies of the composition and changes in composition of the forest community, for studies of the effects of management activities, and especially for training in hands-on natural area management which would be of great value to a large number of our students.

The primary requirements for Downer Woods to realize its potential as an asset to UWM are adoption of a comprehensive management plan, and a long-term commitment to implementation of that plan. Implementing a management program will require commitment of some University resources (primarily personnel) to the project. However, the financial resources required can be minimized to the extent that volunteers are used to provide essential labor. It is typically easy to generate a corp of enthusiastic volunteers for a project such as this.

I have not yet drafted a management plan for Downer Woods. I can, however, outline some of the components which the management plan for this project will include:

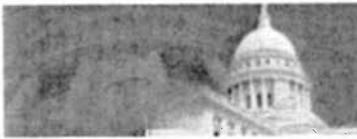
- 1) Detailed plans for control of all aggressive exotic plants including methods, a time plan for how to proceed through the forest providing a sequence for both species and areas, and realistic goals for accomplishments in specific time frames.
- 2) An estimated materials and labor budget for distinct phases of the project.
- 3) A plan for generating and utilizing volunteer labor (including students), and how volunteer labor will affect the overall labor costs of the long-term project.
- 4) A plan to formalize trails and prevent further proliferation of unplanned trails.
- 5) An analysis of the current vegetation and a description of what was the likely original vegetation type on the property, to be used as a goal against which to measure restoration.
- 6) An analysis of possible beneficial native plant reintroductions (eg. American beech, sugar maple, shrubs and herbaceous species found in the presettlement forest).
- 7) Recommendations for student independent study, and class research projects to be encouraged to assist with monitoring of restoration progress and evaluating control techniques. These studies could be very valuable to a wide audience since the problems of Downer Woods

are the problems of most woodlots over a large region.

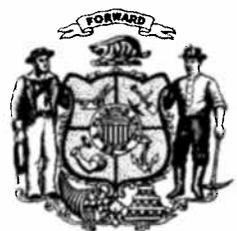
8) Recommendations for the structure of an oversight committee responsible for implementation of the plan.

I strongly recommend management of Downer Woods as a natural area with a goal of the long-term restoration of the presettlement beech-maple forest. It is my opinion that the overall quality of the forest will be greatly enhanced by a trade-off which balances the loss of 0.75 acres of the "reserved woodland", recreational, portion of the Downer Woods with implementation of a long-term program to manage the 11.1 acre permanent conservation area as a natural area. Addition of 2.63 acres of park and woodland areas to the protected "Downer Woods" will ensure preservation of the aesthetically important open spaces on the UWM campus. The UWM Field Station has extensive experience in the management of natural areas. We will find management of Downer Woods to be well within our capabilities. In the long term the UWM campus will benefit substantially from appropriate management of the area.

If you need more information, or would like to discuss any aspect of the woods or its management, please do not hesitate to contact me.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHANCELLOR
P.O. BOX 413 (Chapman Hall 180)
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201
FAX: (414) 229-6261

TO: Senator Potter (attn: Paul Rusok)
FROM: Karla Ashenhurst

Number of pages (including cover): 3

MESSAGE: Attached is the response to
Rep. Notestein's March 10th letter (you
were copied on her original letter)
Karla

PHONE: (414)229-4035 SANDRA HOEH-LYON
 MAUREEN BURKE
 229-4451 KARLA ASHENHURST
 229-5673 BEA BOURGEOIS

#####

Please call for assistance if transmission is incomplete.

Office of the Assistant Chancellor
University Relations



March 16, 1998

Representative Barbara Notestein
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

Dear Barb:

I am writing to respond to each of your questions listed in your March 10th letter to me regarding the Downer Woods legislation (SB 490). I've listed my responses by numbers and bullets that coincide with your questions.

1. Natural area management and restoration plan:

- The plan will be developed by April 15, 1998.
- Funding will be a base reallocation from UWM's budget, and is expected to cost \$10,000-15,000 annually.
- Review of the plan will be conducted by a Downer Woods Stewardship Committee -- a subcommittee of the Field Station Committee and appointed by the Field Station Committee Chair. Jim Reinartz, Ph.D. and Senior Scientist at the Field Station, recommends that the subcommittee include Dr. Diane DeSteven, UWM Plant Ecologist; Tom Schuck, UWM Greenhouse Director; a representative from the UWM Department of Geography; Nancy Braker, Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy Director of Science and Stewardship; Dr. Lawrence Leitner, Senior Biologist, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; a representative from the local neighborhood association; and a representative from a local environmental organization. The committee would review and approve the management plan drafted by Dr. Reinartz.
- The plan will be reviewed periodically and updated annually. Restoring the forest will be an ongoing study and response.
- Planning and implementation is not contingent upon new funding. Funding will be made through the base reallocation. Dr. Reinartz will be the overall plan manager.

2. Park and woodland areas:

- We would restrict this to landscaping and utility lines.
- At the present time, steam lines, chilled water lines and electrical lines run through the site to serve Sandburg Hall. These lines need periodic maintenance as witnessed last summer when the chilled water line had to be replaced and the steam line had to be reinsulated. In the future, maintenance will have to be done on all three lines.

- It is highly unlikely that any maintenance of the utility lines would affect trees. Grass and other plant life may be affected when utility lines have to be excavated. However, the grass, shrubs and flowers would be replaced once the maintenance is completed.
- 3. Maintenance and easement:
 - The easement will provide working space for contractors who will perform periodic maintenance on the tower. Examples include roof repair and replacement, window replacement and tuckpointing.

I hope the above explanations address your concerns. For specific details about the management plan, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jim Reinartz at 414/675-6844.

We'd appreciate having your support on this legislation, which is critical to the campus.

Sincerely,

Kurt Schenk (for Sandra Hoeh-Lyon)

Sandra Hoeh-Lyon
Assistant Chancellor

c: Senator Grobschmidt
Senator Darling
Senator Potter
Representative Wasserman
Chancellor John Schroeder
Jim Reinartz



Office of the Chancellor



March 17, 1998

Senator Alberta Darling
P.O. Box 7887
Madison, WI 53707-7887

Dear Alberta:

Thank you for attending the meeting on March 13th to discuss UWM's plans for the expansion of the Downer Woods and the construction of a new dorm.

The following is a list of meetings either held by or attended by UWM officials, neighbors or environmental organizations regarding the dorm/Downer Woods proposal:

June 2, 1997	Mariners Neighborhood Association.
October 2, 1997	Meeting with Rep. John LaFave and three people who toured the area. Two of the individuals live in the Watertower Landmark Trust neighborhood and one lives in Shorewood.
October 27, 1997	Mariners Neighborhood Association.
December 6, 1997	Members of environmental organizations; attendees included Shorewood residents.
January 19, 1998	Mariners Neighborhood Association.
March 4, 1998	Watertower Landmark Trust (at this meeting, no members expressed interest in the dorm issue; as Karla Ashenhurst mentioned at Friday's meeting, the group is interested in parking issues).
March 13, 1998	Mariners Neighborhood Association, environmental organizations, members of the campus community and students were invited by either letter or e-mail.
March 16, 1998	Mariners Neighborhood Association.

All of the above meetings were attended by top university officials. I attended several personally and was represented at the other meetings by at least one Assistant Chancellor.

Additionally, on Sunday, December 7, 1997, the front page of the metro section of the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel published an article highlighting the proposal, including the management plan for the conservancy portion of the Downer Woods. I have also discussed this issue on several of my monthly WUWM radio shows.

The university has been and remains very committed to communicating effectively with our neighbors. For the past eight years, Assistant Chancellor (and former east-side Alderperson) Sandra Hoeh-Lyon has worked very hard to insure better communication. As you know, the immediate area surrounding UWM consists of not one, but several different neighborhoods. Accordingly, as an operating principle, we communicate most directly and immediately with the particular neighborhood most affected by a specific issue. This practice has worked well. Since the dorm project affects the area

west of the campus, we have focused our communication on the Mariners Neighborhood Association, while also contacting environmental groups and neighbors to the north in Shorewood.

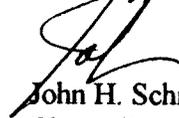
In an effort to expand communication, the university will now send a letter to the Mariners Neighborhood Association, the Watertower Landmark Trust, Shorewood residents as far north as Menlo and representatives of the environmental groups we've previously invited to our meetings, asking for individuals who are willing to serve as "point-people" for the dorm project. The Student Association will receive a notice by e-mail. Those individuals will then work directly with Assistant Chancellor Sandra Hoeh-Lyon and Community and Governmental Relations Liaison Karla Ashenhurst, who will be responsible for notifying the designated individuals about any meetings regarding the dorm project. Additionally, interested parties may call Hoeh-Lyon at 229-4035 or Ashenhurst at 229-4451 if they have any questions or concerns throughout the dorm construction progress.

Additionally, the university will invite the designated individuals to attend the following public planning meetings regarding construction of the dormitory:

1. The scoping meeting. This is the first planning meeting in the process and is used to help define the scope of the environmental impact statement (EIS). The primary purpose of this meeting is to identify concerns associated with the project that need to be incorporated in the EIS.
2. The first-phase EIS meeting. At this meeting, the draft EIS is presented and issues such as transportation routes, noise and the impact on the Downer Woods will be addressed. The first draft of the EIS will be available for public comment and a public hearing will be held to receive those comments.
3. Final EIS approval meeting. This will review the changes incorporated in the draft EIS as suggested by the public, as well as definitively respond to questions and concerns raised at the first EIS meeting.

I hope the above information is helpful and that you will support the dormitory construction project. Again, I want to thank you for attending last Friday's meeting. Please let me know if you have any additional questions or would like more information.

Sincerely,


John H. Schroeder
Chancellor

c: Senator Grobschmidt
Senator Potter ✓
Representative Notestein
Representative Walker
Representative Wasserman

JHS:kma



CALVIN J. POTTER
State Senator



Wisconsin State Senate

MEMO

TO: Education Committee Members
FROM: Cal Potter
RE: Hearing/Exec Tomorrow
DATE: March 17, 1998

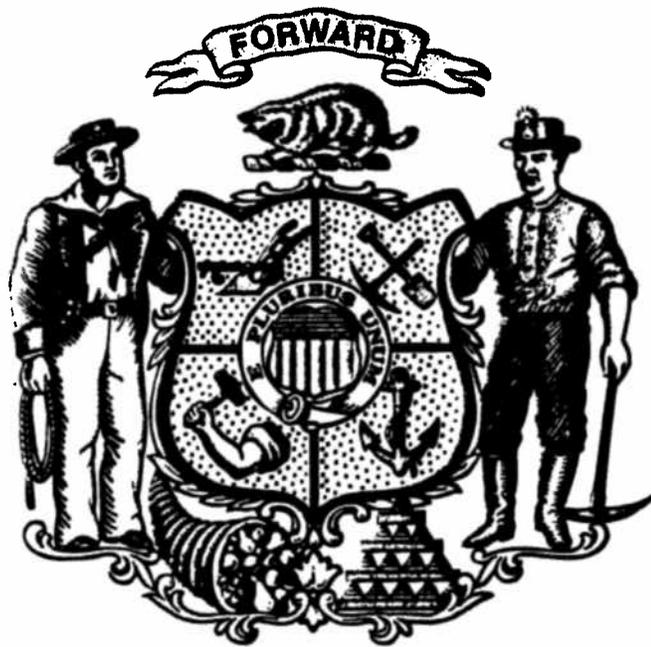
Here is a "hard" copy of the hearing notice for tomorrow, along with the following:

1. Copies of the two Legislative Council memos on the truancy bill (AB 686) covering the changes we made. I presume this bill will be on the floor Thursday.
2. Copies of the Legislative Council memos on pupil expulsions (SB 192) covering the changes developed by Rep. Becky Young. This is on for our executive session.

There will be a sub to the Downer Woods bill (SB 490) which we will pass out tomorrow.

We will discuss the possibility of a letter to Joint Finance recommending that all students 18 years of age be able to take advantage of the higher education tax credits (Senator Roessler's suggestion).

If you have any questions please let us know.





SIERRA CLUB John Muir Chapter

222 So. Hamilton St., Suite 1, Madison, WI 53703
(608) 256-0565

March 24, 1998

Dear Senator Cotter

The Sierra Club is very concerned that Downer Woods is being rushed through the Legislature without adequate review.

Please note that your committee's Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to SB 470 was not presented to the Senate for consideration.

SSA1 corrects an important flaw in the bill although it ducks the issue of whether a natural area under deed restrictions should be traded for a building.

Please help slow this bill down.
...To enjoy and preserve the wild places of earth...



Printed on recycled paper

Alfred Tompkins

MEMO TO: Wisconsin State Senate Members
FROM: Cathleen Rose, Conservation Chair, Great Waters Group - Sierra Club
DATE: March 24, 1998
RE: Slow down SB 490/ AB 920 Downer Woods, Milwaukee WI

Senate Bill 490 passed by voice vote on Thursday, March 19, authorizing the removal of a portion of the "Downer Woods" for construction of a student dormitory. This bill is on a fast track. But there are serious problems with SB 490.

1. Lack of opportunity for the affected public to express concerns about SB 490 and its impact on Downer Woods.

- The Senate Education Committee hearing in Madison (3/11), and the Senate public information session in Milwaukee (3/13), were both held during the week of spring break, with less than one week notice. Requests to both UW-M and Senator Grobschmidt to delay these meetings until after the students and faculty returned were denied. The Senate hearing was on an LRB draft not available in Milwaukee.

- Notification of these meetings was never sent to local residents. Only certain groups, such as one individual in the Sierra Club, the Riverside Urban Environmental Center (who could not have anyone there due to the short notice), and the Mariner Neighborhood Association (just west of UW-M) were notified.

- Student organizations, faculty members and other employees of UW-M were unaware of these proceedings.

2. There are alternatives that will be excluded by this bill. This bill is premature.

- The issue of an additional dormitory was raised ten years ago. At that time, public outcry stopped the cutting of Downer Woods for a dormitory. We are asking that the public once again be involved in this decision, for the Downer Woods does not belong to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

- Downer Woods is a gift to the people of Wisconsin, to be preserved in its natural beauty. The woods belongs to the people of Wisconsin, and we should have the opportunity to be heard on this important issue before these woods are sacrificed for a dormitory.

- Although UW-M is surrounded by other land uses, there are alternatives available for construction of a dormitory. The local community has not completed its discussions with the UW about the best choice.

3. Senate procedural error skipped the Committee's Substitute Amendment.

- The Senate Education Committee recommended approval of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 to SB 490 to correct a drafting error. But in its haste, the Senate did not have the Committee's Substitute Amendment before it when the Senate voted on a voice vote to adopt SB 490. Let's slow down and pay attention to valid procedures and drafting details.

Please delay this legislation until we have had an opportunity to be heard.

For further information, please contact Caryl Terrell, John Muir Chapter Sierra Club at 608-256-0565 or Cathy Rose, Great Waters Group Sierra Club at 414-961-8732.

ADOPTED on 12 March, 1998

The Great Waters Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club firmly opposes Wisconsin Senate bill 490, with the exception of section 4(a). The 18.805 acres that are presently protected under Wisconsin statute 36.37 represents less than one half of the original land commonly known as Downer Woods. To further reduce this woodland area, one of the few remaining natural landscapes in this area, would threaten its viability.

Our urban forests have all but disappeared, thereby increasing the value of what remains. The 2.6+ acres of developed land proposed to replace a portion of Downer Woods is NOT a substitute for natural woodland. The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin should recognize that, as an urban university, UW-M has an invaluable gift that deserves stringent protection.

The original statute reads: 'Section 2 (1). That the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin system and the administration of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee halt any plans for construction or expansion into Downer Woods. (2). That the area known as Downer Woods be designated a scientific and natural preserve for the use and enjoyment of students and the Milwaukee community. End.'

If there is to be an alteration to statute 36.37, it should be to return to the original intention of the statute, which is to preserve and to protect this natural woodland, for us and for future generations.

We urge the Board of Regents to find an alternative site for the construction of an additional dormitory tower. Although land is very limited, this is NOT the only possible site. Despite our opposition to most of this bill, we commend the Board of Regents and the Senate for section 4 (a), which refers to the future management and restoration plan for the Downer Woods. Furthermore, we offer our volunteer labor to assist in the removal of invasive plants.

Sincerely,

/s/

Steve Schutz
Chairman

/s/

Cathleen Rose
Conservation Chair

Great Waters Group of the John Muir Chapter of the Sierra Club



Land Use Changes Required to Accommodate to Accommodate Do

The existing Sandburg Hall
dormitory complex with a
central commons.

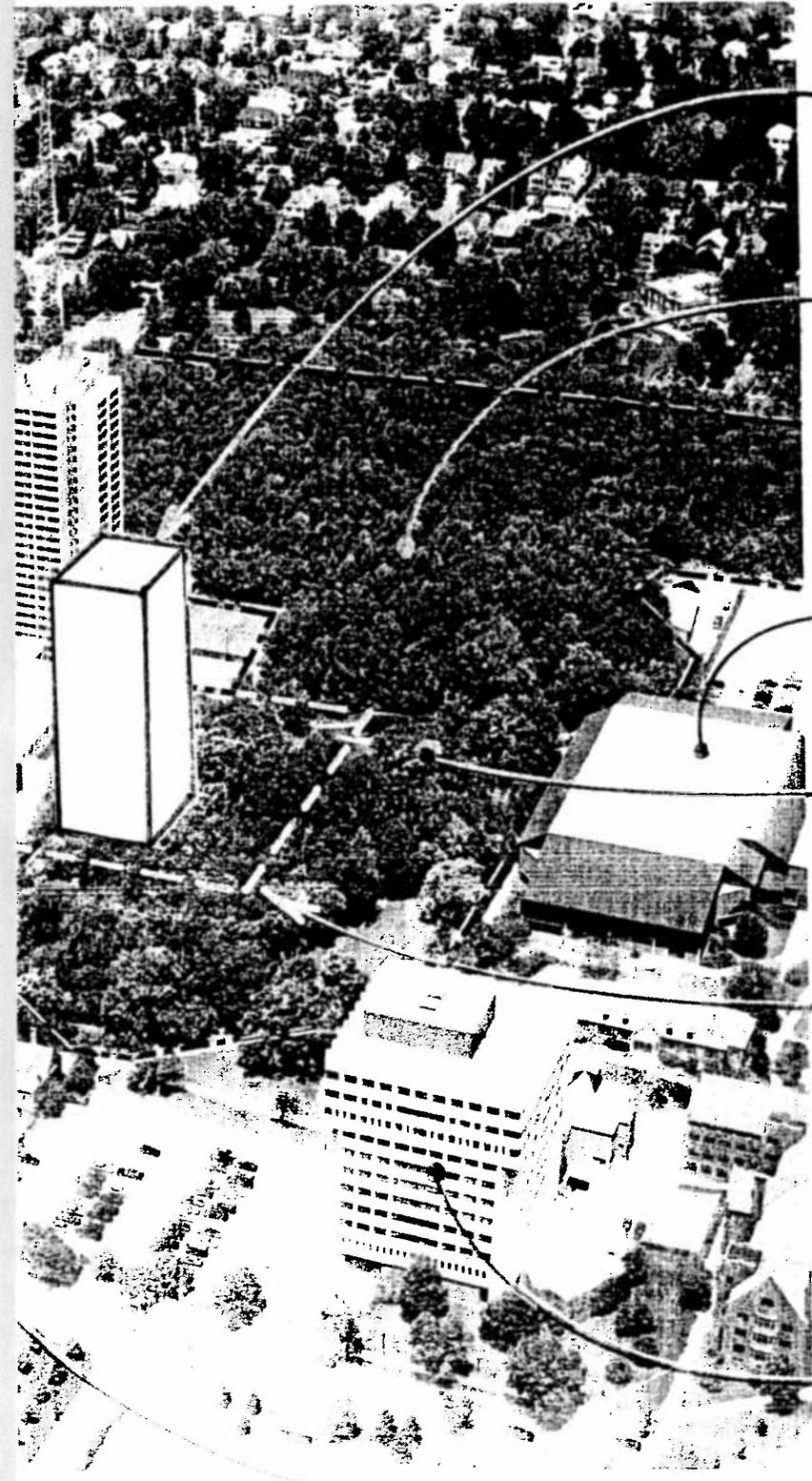
Columbia Hospital complex.

The existing +/- 2.7 acre
open area with mature
trees (that is currently not
designated) to be forever
restricted from further
development.

Hartford Avenue School



Plan for the Expansion of Sandburg Hall Dormitory Housing



Additional dormitory rooms.

The existing Downer Woods Preservation (DESC) (+/- 11.1 acres) to be better maintained by UWM in perpetuity.

The Klotsche Athletic Center.

The existing Downer Recreation Area (+/-3 acres), 3/4 acres of which is to be removed from restricted development to accommodate a dormitory.

The 70' x 102', .16 acre, portion of the Recreational Area to be removed from restricted development to accommodate a dormitory .

Funderis Hall.

Chapman Hall.