

WISCONSIN STATE  
LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE HEARING  
RECORDS

**2003-04**

(session year)

**Assembly**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on  
Colleges and  
Universities  
(AC-CU)

(Form Updated: 11/20/2008)

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TO: REP. MUSSER

FROM: Janet Washbon Assistant Vice President Policy and Government Relations  
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DATE: Monday December 15 2003

This email is a follow-up to the call I made to your office this morning.

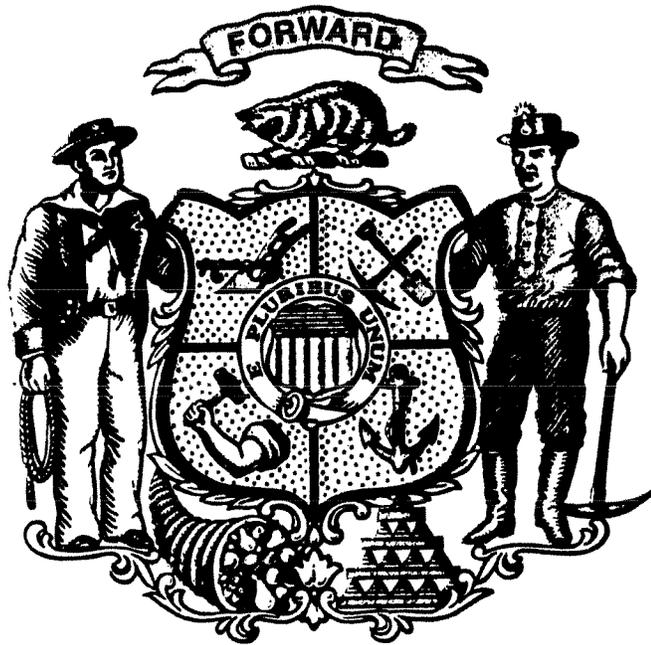
First, I would like to state that the WTCS supports the intent of AB 406 to assure the reenrollment in technical college of those called up for military service so that these students can resume their career preparation as painlessly and rapidly as possible.

The WTCS System Office sent the following to DOA when they requested our position on AB 406 prior to tomorrow's hearing. In developing this response with my supervisor, Dan Clancy, he suggested that you might be able to help us to clarify some of our concerns prior to the Assembly Colleges and Universities hearing on 12/16. Our goal in serving these or any other students is to provide them with the education they need as quickly as possible. As you can see, however, we have some concerns that would affect the implementation of this legislation. These concerns involve the definition of reenrollment, your intent as the author with respect to reenrolling these students, and our attendant responsibilities to provide appropriate course work on demand to these students.

I am available all day to day to discuss these concerns and WTCS System Office staff will be attending the hearing in Assembly Colleges and Universities tomorrow (12/16).

The WTCS supports AB 406, a bill relating to re-enrollment of students in National Guard or reserve military units called up for service. In reviewing the bill language, however, System Office staff have raised several technical issues with respect to implementation of the changes proposed in the bill draft:

- AB 406 would change the existing provisions for dealing with students involved in a military call-up to apply only to students who are Wisconsin residents. That would remove some advantages that non-resident students experience currently to provide a greater advantage to Wisconsin residents. It would leave reciprocity students in limbo as well as others who are non-resident members of military units. It is not clear that this is the intention of the bill's author. Students classified as non-state residents do not make up a larger number of the students served by the WTCS, but staff are concerned that some individuals may be disadvantaged by this change. WTCS districts or the WTCS Board could adopt policy to extend these provisions to all persons subject to military call-ups and returnees, regardless of their residence, but the bill author may wish to consider modifying the language to cover these individuals as well.
- No deadline is specified in the bill language as to when the returnee must notify the WTCS district that he or she wishes to return to school. Registration for courses typically occurs during the course of the previous term. While the WTCS would make every effort to accommodate the educational needs of returning veterans, it would probably be helpful to include language requiring the returnee to notify the institution of higher education at least 30 days in advance of the student's anticipated reenrollment.
- A question that must be addressed is what the WTCS district's obligation should be in terms of being forced to offer classes that would not typically be offered in a given semester or year? The bill indicates that if a student wanted to reenroll, the district would be obligated to do so. Does that refer to reenrolling in a particular course, in a program, or in the college? Since it leaves the decision as to when to reenroll up to the student—does granting a right to the returnee to decide when to reenroll mean that the district has to offer a particular course at the demand of the student? Perhaps the intent of the author could be clarified by including a definition of what is meant by reenrollment in an institution of higher education.
- A final question raised by the bill language concerns bumping—if a student has to leave a high demand program and someone else takes their place, does the returnee get to bump the other student out of the program courses when they return? Who decides who gets bumped? Would the WTCS Board need to require the districts to develop a policy about bumping rights?





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Rep. Kreibich 107W

January 8, 2004

TO: Colleges and Universities Committee members  
FROM: President Katharine Lyall *KLyall*  
RE: Executive Session Bills, January 13

I am writing to share the University of Wisconsin System positions related to two bills on your executive session calendar this Tuesday, January 13. We appreciate the opportunity to reiterate our support for both these proposals.

AB 406. SUPPORT: Active Duty Reenrollment. As written, AB 406 amends current law to extend tuition refunds and reenrollment options to Wisconsin residents who are members of the National Guard or Reserve Unit of any state who are called to active duty. This legislation is heartily endorsed by the UW System and is very much in keeping with our policies and practices at UW-Madison and other system schools. Moreover, it is further evidence of the UW's longstanding commitment to its students who serve in the Armed Forces in times of conflict. At its April 2003 meeting, the Board of Regents of the UW System passed a resolution that expressed "strong support and gratitude for the valor and dedication of all those in the University of Wisconsin System who are serving their country and . . . a commitment to making every effort to ease their transition when they return to the university."

AB 497. SUPPORT. Allows electronic distribution of sexual assault prevention information to students. (NOTE: the information would continue to be presented orally during orientation programs for new students). Delivering orientation materials to students electronically will provide a higher level of access to the information and will save money in printing costs. Also, placing the information on the campus' website will assure that it is available 24 hours a day. Each UW institution assigns an email account to every student. Thus every student has an email account to access this information were it to be provided electronically. Institutions will continue to make hard copy available upon request to any students who prefer to receive the information in that way.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of these bills. Please feel free to contact me, Margaret Lewis (2-4464) or Doug Bradley (2-4463) if you have any further questions.

Cc: Board of Regents  
Legislative leadership