

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)

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

➤ Committee Reports ... CR
**

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES
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➤ Public Hearings ... PH
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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt
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Name:

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** **03hr_ab0407_AC-CU_pt01**

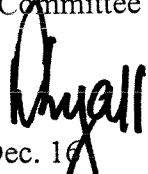
➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc
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December 11, 2003

TO: Colleges and Universities Committee members
FROM: President Katharine Lyall 
RE: Executive Session Bills, Dec. 16

I am writing to provide an update on some recent Board of Regent action and share the University of Wisconsin System position related to four bills on your executive session calendar December 16th.

AB 366. Credit transfer. As you can see from attachment 1, AB 366, would be unnecessary if amended by Assembly Amendment 1, because it mirrors the resolutions already passed by both the UW System and Wisconsin Technical College System Boards in the last two months. The bill as amended would require that each technical college student enrolled in the UW System be given a list of the technical college credits that are accepted for transfer to the UW System, how they will apply to the student's degree program, and the remaining courses necessary to complete the degree program. For a student transferring from one of the three technical college liberal arts programs, 72 credits will transfer to the UW System and all general education requirements at any UW System institution will be fulfilled. And finally, the UW System would accept for transfer occupational or technical courses taken by a technical college student on a course-by-course basis. The implementation of these initiatives is on track for students entering the UW System the Fall of 2004. We would welcome the opportunity to update the College and Universities committee at any time regarding the progress of implementation of credit transfer initiatives. A non-statutory approach is preferred as it allows both systems flexibility to implement further improvements advantageous to students.

AB 407. Support. Regulates athletic agents. The UW System supports and appreciates Rep. Wiekert's efforts to put teeth into our laws to protect student athletes from unscrupulous agents.

AB 543. Oppose. Expanded notice of public meetings of university departments and subunits. University departments must by law already post notice of meetings that "reasonably apprise interested parties and the news media" of the meeting. University departments and subunits should be treated just as K-12 or Technical College departmental meetings. These meetings relate to curriculum, space and time assignments, student advising, etc. These departmental meetings do not involve decisions to raise tuition or appropriate taxpayer funds. These decisions are made by

Regents already covered by the open meetings laws, just like any local government. Anyone who does have an interest and would like to receive routine notice of departmental meetings can make this request in writing to a departmental chair and receive all notices under current law. The university is interested in providing appropriate notice to all interested parties, while not wasting time or resources, creating inefficiencies or inundating folks with notices of primarily internal and routine operations meetings. There are 540 UW System departments and over 2,500 sub-units that would be covered by additional reporting requirements.

AB 558. Oppose as overly broad. Roll call votes required by Regents on all issues. The Board of Regents passed a resolution (see attachment 2) in October requiring a roll call vote on all compensation matters. As is the case with the legislature, there are many routine and procedural votes where unanimous consent or a voice vote contributes to a more efficient process. As in the case of the legislature, any member can request a roll call vote at any time.

AB 540. Oppose. Additional reporting of faculty income sources. I would also like to take this opportunity to share with you the current university practices related to the reporting of outside income by faculty and academic staff. Attachment 3 is the administrative code, and the implementing form, that is required to be filed by all faculty and staff at least once a year. This is all public record. Faculty and staff must report any income received for professional activities, the name of the organization or business, the type of activity, and whether they received \$5,000 or more from a single source. This reporting avoids conflict of interest situations and assures a Dean, the public, or other administrating officer that the activity is not interfering with university responsibilities. Please don't take action that would jeopardize public private partnerships and put Wisconsin at a competitive disadvantage with other states or private universities, or threaten the legitimate competitive interests of businesses with whom we encourage partnerships for the benefit of state economic development.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and please contact me or Margaret Lewis (3-7962) with further questions.

Cc: Board of Regents
Legislative leadership