

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  
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➤ Executive Sessions ... ES  
\*\*

➤ Public Hearings ... PH  
\*\*

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP  
\*\*

**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE  
FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL ...**

➤ Appointments ... Appt  
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Name:

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule  
\*\*

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

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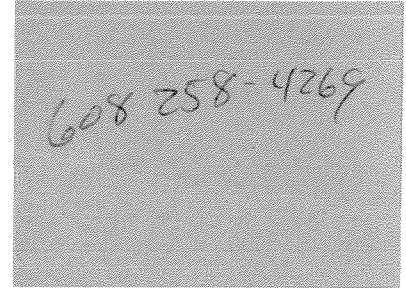
➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc  
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**Board of Regents**

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September 26, 2003

Rep. Robin Kreibich  
107 West, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8952  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

The Board of Regents appreciates the invitation to speak with the Colleges and Universities Committee with regard to recent Regent action related to executive salaries. Regent President Marcovich asked me to respond to your invitation as he is unable to be in Madison on October 7.

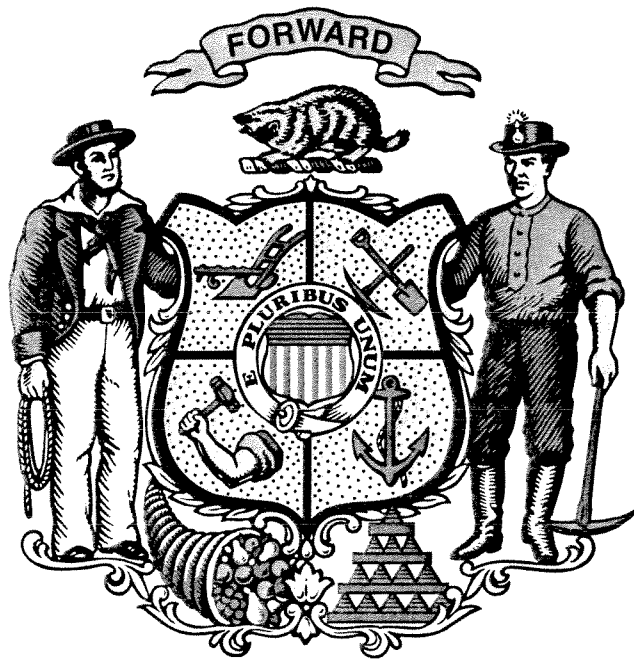
Regent Marcovich asked me to join you in his stead and I am happy to do so. However, my wife is having a medical procedure early in the morning and I may not be available until 11:00 a.m. I will be there as soon as I can but I am confident I can be there at 11:00 a.m. I understand that there are other matters that could be addressed earlier. I very much appreciate your understanding.

Thank you again for your invitation. I look forward to meeting you and responding to the committee's questions. If there are specific questions you would like me to address in some opening remarks, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Walsh'.

David Walsh  
Vice-President  
Board of Regents



**Testimony of State Senator Tom Reynolds**  
**2003 Senate Bill 543**  
**Assembly Committee on Colleges and University**  
**October 7, 2003**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members,

I am pleased to be here to urge your support for Assembly 543 that would repeal the state university's exemption from Wisconsin's Open Meetings Laws. As you may know, I am author of the Senate version of this bill.

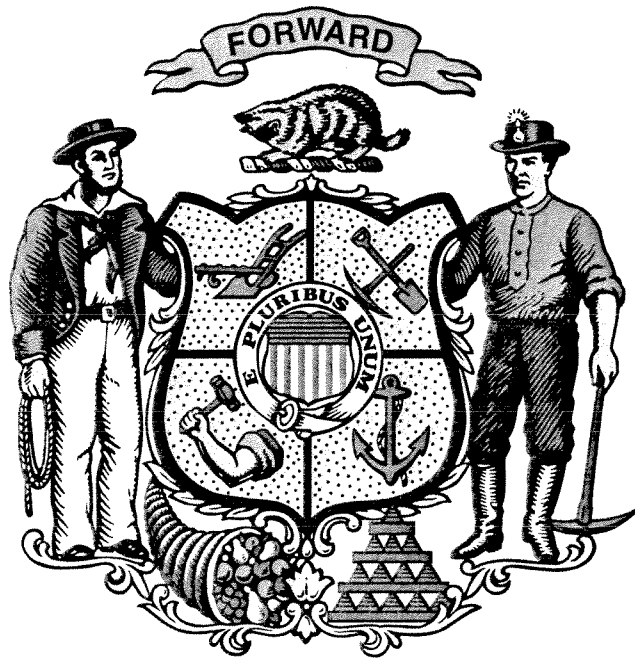
Wisconsin has long tradition of open government. As part of our progressive heritage, our governments from town halls to the Capitol meet with open doors inviting public scrutiny. Essential to public participation is public notification. It was deemed so essential, it was made a duty of public officials to properly notice meetings. One notable exception is the state University of Wisconsin System.

This legislation would add the state university along side other state boards, committees, and local governments that already must comply with the open meetings laws. By subjecting all of the state university, not just the Board of Regents, to these requirements, I believe that we can help restore accountability to higher education in Wisconsin.

There are those who think this bill may be unnecessary or an undue burden. I would offer that this bill is asking no more than is required for the most mundane town board meeting. What is important is that the public be duly informed about all state university meetings so that they may truly be afforded the opportunity to participate and hold all public officials accountable. This bill gives them that chance. I hope you would support this effort.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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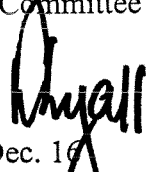




**Office of the President**

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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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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