



UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN - MADISON
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Special Committee on Affirmative Action:

It is to our dismay that we write you yet again about the inaccessibility of your meetings. At your last meeting, hundreds UW students and employees joined by Madison community members filled the meeting room showing strong support for affirmative action and a desire to be involved with the preceding of your committee. Chair Grothman, we informed you then of our disapproval about you meeting time during finals week, but you have chosen once again to attempt to silence our voices.

Your January 11 meeting takes place during winter recess for most UW System students. This time is not only difficult for students, but UW employees as well. Many employees take this time off during winter recess to spend with their families. Do you think that UW students and employees should be involved in discussions about affirmative action that could literally change the face of their university? We hope so.

Although we appreciate being able to reach the committee through letters like this, the difficulty of navigating the Legislative Council's system is still making your committee inaccessible to most people. Our democratic process emphasizes using the voices of all people to come to an informed decision, not just a few. Utilizing the democratic process is the only way to for the results of your committee to be credible. As voting citizens of and community members, we strongly encourage you to create opportunities for the issue of affirmative action to be discussed publicly by citizens.

Chair Grothman, we urge you to direct your committee is a manner that encourages the diversity of ideas that makes Wisconsin great. Committee members, it is up to you to hold your chair accountable to the wishes of Wisconsin citizens.

Sincerely,

Hannah Buck, ASM Diversity Chair
Jennifer Knox, United Council of UW Students