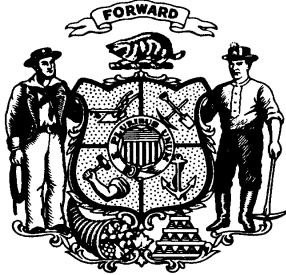


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DRAFT LETTER NO. 11

December 17, 2012

Mr. Kevin P. Reilly, President
University of Wisconsin System
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Mr. Rolf Wegenke, Ph.D., President
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
122 West Washington Avenue, Suite 700
Madison, WI 53703-2723

Dear Mr. Reilly and Mr. Wegenke:

We are writing in our capacity as Chair and Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Council's Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School. The Special Committee is directed to develop legislation to create and enhance opportunities for both lower and higher achieving students in high school. Specifically, the committee is directed to evaluate current options available to high school students for both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment, including the Youth Options Program; examine both career and technical education and post-secondary enrollment options available to high school students in other states; and determine how to promote coordination between high schools, technical colleges, universities, and employers to ensure that high school students have the skills necessary to meet the workforce needs of employers in this state.

During the course of its meetings, the Special Committee discussed the training and instruction that is provided in educator preparation programs to prepare graduates to teach high school students. The committee also discussed the changing requirements in education, such as the No Child Left Behind waiver, 21st Century skills, Smarter Balanced assessments, ACT Suite, and Common Core. Given these changing requirements, and the need to keep educators informed about such requirements, the committee wants to ensure that programs designed to train educators adequately prepare them to teach in this changing environment.

The Special Committee expressed interest in studying the educator preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education to ensure that the programs contain instruction in relevant changes in education, including 21st Century skills. Given the remaining number of committee meetings and the time that would be required to study and recommend changes to the educator preparation programs, the committee was unable to complete this task. However, the committee strongly believes that the educator

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preparation programs should be reviewed.

Therefore, the Special Committee requests that the University of Wisconsin (UW) System and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (WAICU) review the educator preparation programs that are available at their respective educational institutions to ensure that those programs include instruction in relevant changes in education, including 21st Century skills. The committee also requests that the UW System and WAICU review the educator preparation programs that are available to special education teachers to ensure that those programs include instruction in how to assist students with disabilities transition to the workforce.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Senator Luther Olsen, Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

Representative Paul Farrow, Vice Chair
Special Committee on Improving
Educational Opportunities in High School

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