



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS of MADISON

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STUDENTS CALL ON JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE TO KEEP UW SYSTEM AFFORDABLE

MADISON, WI — Students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison responded to the biennial budget address by calling for maintained public oversight and sufficient funding to ensure that the University of Wisconsin System is able to carry out its mission.

The \$300 million budget cut proposed by Governor Walker would be the largest in the 44-year history of the UW System. Students worry this cut will negatively impact the accessibility and affordability of higher education in Wisconsin.

Students encourage legislators to amend the current proposal to ensure long-term tuition affordability and manageable cuts to the UW. ASM Legislative Affairs Chair Tom Gierok stated:

“Students want to ensure that the Joint Finance Committee keeps tuition affordable after 2017, and does not abandon public oversight of the University of Wisconsin System. Flexibility does not equal affordability.”

Vice Chair Derek Field stated, “A cut of this magnitude to academics or student services will inevitably diminish the quality of education in UW System; balancing this budget on the backs of Wisconsin’s students will hurt the economy, and those who would like to live in Wisconsin after graduation.”

Tuition increased 18 percent after the last tuition freeze in 2004. Under the public authority model proposed by the Governor, tuition could increase without legislative authorization. ASM Chair Genevieve Carter stated:

“Enormous cuts in funding paired with a four year tuition freeze will force the university to increase tuition beyond the reach of Wisconsin families. It is crucial for students and parents to contact legislators about the value of funding public higher education.”

Any press inquiries can be directed to Emily Kurtz at ekurtz2@wisc.edu.

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*The Associated Students of Madison is the official student government on the UW-Madison campus,
representing over 41,000 students.*