

Dear President Cross:

I am aware that the UW System is in the process of brokering a deal in regard to the UW-Oshkosh scandal regarding inappropriate financial arrangements with its private foundation. Since the public announcement of civil litigation by the Wisconsin Department of Justice on behalf of the UW System on January 18, 2017, you and others involved in that process provided immediate reassurances that the taxpayers and students would not be on the hook for the actions allegedly undertaken by the former Chancellor Richard Wells and Vice Chancellor Thomas Sonnleitner. The UW System and the Wisconsin Department of Justice released a significant amount of documents as a part of the civil litigation announcement to apprise the public of the allegedly aggressive actions that the System was willing to undertake to protect taxpayers and tuition-paying families.

In recent weeks, it has come to my attention that efforts are underway to reach a deal on the UW-Oshkosh scandal that would potentially utilize public funds to assist in what would be a bailout of the debts of the UW-Oshkosh Foundation, a private organization. Further, I am aware that such a bailout might need action by the Legislature to include elements of a deal in the 2017-19 biennial budget.

I would hope that you, the Board of Regents, the Governor and members of the Legislature would not seek to rush a bailout that benefits the private foundation and the banks/investors involved at the expense of the taxpayers or students. In other words, President Cross, you need to keep your commitment that the public won't be forced to fund the inappropriate decisions of two campus administrators and the failed oversight of the System. Further, any effort by the UW System to ram through a bailout in the late stages of the state budget process would certainly cast a new light on the public relations campaign that was launched by the UW System on this matter in mid-January.

Please keep your commitment to protect the public funds provided by the taxpayers and students in any resolution of the scandalous activities involving UW-Oshkosh and its private foundation.

Sincerely,

*Steve Nass*

**Senator**

**II<sup>th</sup> State Senate District**

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