



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Legislators Introduce Bill to Restore Shared Governance

Faculty, Staff, Students Would Resume Decision-Making Roles

MADISON – Today, Representative Dianne Hesselbein (D-Middleton) called for bipartisan support of a bill she is introducing to restore shared governance to the University of Wisconsin - System. The bill will bring statutory language back to what it was before it was changed in the 2015 biennial state budget. The statutory role of faculty, staff, and students was downgraded in the budget from “active participants” to advisory only.

“This is a simple step which will upgrade the role that our faculty, staff and students have from advisory to decision-making,” Hesselbein said. **“This will have a far-reaching effect on morale and provide the University of Wisconsin - System an important recruiting tool that was lost. Most importantly, it will build loyalty and improve the quality of decisions.”**

The restored language of the bill states that the faculty “shall actively participate in institutional policy development,” and “shall have the primary responsibility for academic and educational activities and faculty personnel matters.” Academic staff and students are likewise made “active participants,” responsible for policies governing staff and student life.

“We have to consider the positive impact of shared decision making in an organization. Our state will be able to open the door to further collaboration at our campuses with the elevated status of faculty, staff and students,” Hesselbein added.

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Dianne Hesselbein represents the 79th Assembly District and serves as a member of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities.