

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**JONATHAN BROSTOFF**  
19TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

From: State Representative Jonathan Brostoff  
To: Andrew S. Peterson, President, University of Wisconsin Board of Regents  
CC: Members of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents

Board President Peterson and Distinguished Regents,

I write today to express my sincere disappointment in the composition of the recently-announced search committee to find a successor for UW System President Cross.

The University of Wisconsin System is truly one of our state's crowning achievements, and merits a holistic, representative search committee to find the next President for the System. Unfortunately, the announced search committee, as currently composed, clearly falls short of being either holistic in its composition, or even remotely representative of the numerous stakeholders who interact with the UW System on a daily basis. By not giving faculty, staff, or regular students any direct say in the search process, you are effectively silencing the voices of those who make up the vast majority of the institutions that make up the University System. Who better to understand the many needs of our state's higher education infrastructure than those who live it every single day? And while I understand that you have expressed a commitment to "listening sessions" with the goal of bringing in additional voices, we all know very well that a seat in the room is not equivalent to a seat at the table.

Furthermore, by only including one person of color on the search committee, you are sending a message to a significant (and growing) subset of stakeholders that their voices are not nearly as important as those of their White counterparts. Given the recent string of insensitive and racially-motivated incidents that have struck our beloved UW System, this frankly represents a dereliction of duty at a time that we should be standing up and firmly, with one voice, reaffirming our commitment to our state's vibrant communities of color.

To the casual observer, this coming search process might already appear either tainted or only partially legitimate. To be frank, the next President of the UW System will have enough challenges to face without also having to convince the vast majority of System stakeholders that they truly deserve to lead our state's higher educational institutions into the next generation.

As both the State Representative representing the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and as an alumnus of that distinguished university, I ask that you reconsider, and that you do what is right for our students. Respectfully, I urge you to look both to past precedent and to the future: expand the search committee to eighteen members; appoint representatives of the faculty, staff, and students to the search committee; and commit to the diversity of our state and institutions by fully incorporating diverse voices and perspectives into all aspects of the search process.

In service,



Jonathan Brostoff  
State Representative  
19th Assembly District