



April 19, 2011

Representative Robin Vos
Co-Chairman, Joint Finance Committee
Room 309 East
State Capitol

Senator Alberta Darling
Co-Chairwoman, Joint Finance Committee
Room 317 East
State Capitol

Dear Co-Chairs Vos and Darling:

I am writing to offer a path to resolving the current controversy over the **New Badger Partnership (UW-Madison split from the UW System)**. As you know, I have opposed Governor Walker's proposal to split UW-Madison from the UW System in an attempt to provide the flagship campus greater flexibilities over operations and finances. This policy proposal was included in the Governor's 2011-2013 Biennial Budget.

My suggestion for seeking a positive resolution of this matter:

1.) The Joint Finance Committee will remove all provisions relating to the New Badger Partnership from the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget.

2.) Upon completion of the Biennial Budget process, the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Higher Education would commence public hearings and working sessions in order to develop a comprehensive bill that would include the following elements:

a.) Statutory flexibilities for all UW System campuses in the areas of operations and finances. A starting point on this item would be the Wisconsin Idea Partnership as recommended by the Board of Regents.

b.) Statutory accountability measures to insure reasonable oversight of the primary missions of the UW System. These could include measures relating to

graduation rates, time-to-degree for undergraduates, minimum faculty teaching loads, and protections against excessive tuition and fee increases.

c.) Statutory flexibilities specifically for UW-Madison from certain administrative requirements of the UW System and Board of Regents. However, UW-Madison would remain the flagship campus and a vital part of the UW System.

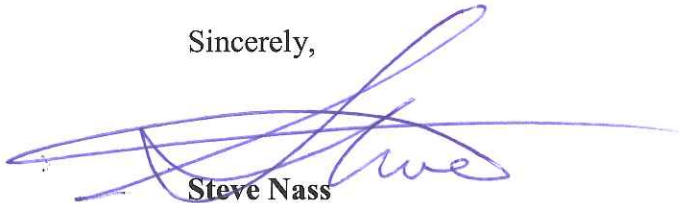
d.) Statutory changes to the membership and powers of the UW System Board of Regents. These could include a geographic requirement for Regents, reducing the number of Regents, and requiring greater oversight of the UW System Administration by the Board of Regents.

As the Chairman of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee, I recognize the need for reasonable and sound changes in the relationship between the UW System and the State of Wisconsin. I also concede that the current functional relationship between UW-Madison and UW System Administration must be altered in a manner that prioritizes enhanced efficiencies and limited autonomy for administrators at our flagship campus.

I am committed to a comprehensive bill that achieves all of these goals for the effective administration of the UW System in exchange for real accountability measures that protect the students, families and taxpayers of Wisconsin. Finally, I will work to complete the committee process in a timeframe that will allow for the provisions of a comprehensive bill to take effect in the second year of this biennium (July 1, 2012).

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Steve Nass

State Representative

31st Assembly District

Chairman – Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee