

Stephen L. Nass
Wisconsin State Senator

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sen. Steve Nass (608) 266-2635

May 25, 2017

**JFC Allows UW System to Mandate Cultural Fluency and White Privilege Training
Nass: Motion to block mandate and limit funding stalls over concerns of “messaging.”**

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) and Representative Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva) offered a budget motion that would have prohibited the UW System from mandating cultural fluency, diversity and white privilege training for all students, faculty and staff. The UW System has requested \$4 million to develop the curriculum and hire the staff necessary to carry out the system-wide mandate. The Joint Finance Committee refused to take up the motion over messaging concerns.

“I had the support of many legislators and several of the Republican members of the Joint Finance Committee, but one Republican member on the committee had concerns over ‘messaging.’ Now, students, faculty and staff will be forced to attend indoctrination sessions to make them more cultural fluent,” Nass said.

Nass noted there has been strong opposition to efforts by UW System administrators over the last few years in trying to control speech, thought and views through such trainings. The Legislature now has the opportunity to prevent the mandate and the wasteful spending of taxpayer and student dollars.

“This is just another example in recent weeks that some Republicans in the Legislature are tone-deaf and out-of-touch with the taxpayers of Wisconsin. Common sense doesn’t always survive under the dome in Madison,” Nass said.

The motion is attached to this press release.

-End-

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11th Senate District

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Joint Committee on Finance

2017-2019 Budget Motion Request

Date: May 24, 2017

Requesting Legislator/phone number: Senator Nass and Representative Tyler August

Staff Contact/phone number: Mike Mikalsen (Nass) 266-2635

Statement of Motion Intent: Prohibit UW System from planned expenditure of up to \$4 million (GPR) on mandatory diversity, sensitivity and cultural fluency trainings for all students, faculty and staff.

Agency/Agencies Impacted: UW System

Summary: As a part of the UW System's 2020 Forward agenda in its 2017-19 biennial budget request, the System requests and expects to spend at least \$4 million in creating curriculum and hiring staff to implement a system-wide mandatory "cultural fluency" training for all students, faculty and staff. Senator Nass is requesting a motion that would do the following:

- 1.) Prohibit the UW System from enacting a mandatory training requirement for students, faculty and staff that includes any of the following elements: cultural fluency, diversity, sensitivity, white privilege or other similar political correctness concepts.
- 2.) Prohibit the UW System from expending GPR, tuition or student fees in creation of similar voluntary training programs within the UW System

Fiscal Impact: At least \$4 million (GPR) over the 2017-19 biennium. It would also save an undetermined amount of tuition and student fee dollars.

Funding Source (if applicable): GPR