



Media Release

For Immediate Release
December 3, 2019

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Rep. Shankland: Rebuke to Regent President's Refusal to Include Faculty, Staff, and Students on Presidential Search Committee

MADISON – Yesterday, University of Wisconsin Board of Regents President Drew Petersen stated that he will not be expanding the search committee tasked with selecting the next president of the UW System. This declaration came after faculty from 13 UW System campuses and numerous state legislators called on the Board of Regents to expand the committee to include representation from faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students. The search committee as it stands now is the narrowest of any such search committee in decades, comprised of only four Regents, one student Regent, one former Regent, two chancellors, and a provost.

In response, Rep. Katrina Shankland (D- Stevens Point) issued the following statement:

“It is disgraceful that the Board of Regents has chosen to break with precedent and outright refuse to give faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students a real seat at the table in choosing the next University of Wisconsin System President. There is, effectively, no voice representing shared governance on the committee at all. Representation and participation from all stakeholders are crucial to the vitality and strength of our UW. The façade of ‘listening sessions’ that the regent president is dangling in front of shared governance stakeholders is an insult. If 96% of the UW workforce is not allowed to have a representative in the room as they search for the UW System President, what confidence will this inspire? Absolutely none. It appears they are deliberately setting the UW System up for failure.

“After I sent the Board of Regents two letters demanding they include shared governance stakeholders on the committee, it was disappointing to see the regents double down on breaking with decades of precedent. Now that resolution after resolution from shared governance stakeholders has passed on 13 campuses while groups like AFT and AAUP and other legislators have called on the regents to rectify this wrong, their refusal is both embarrassing and vindictive. The regents’ willful exclusion of key shared governance stakeholders and lack of leadership are repugnant, and I am profoundly alarmed and disappointed at their inability to right this wrong. It would have cost them nothing compared to what this decision will cost the UW System.”

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