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Badgers United's Data Supports Senate Committee Recommendations To Streamline Wisconsin Higher Education

The Committee's Recommendations Offer An Opportunity To Lay A Solid Foundation For UW-Madison's Future

MADISON, WI (May 6, 2021) — [Badgers United](#), a 501(c)(3) that operates independently from UW-Madison, announced support today for the [Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges' recommendations to reorganize and streamline the University Of Wisconsin System](#).

For decades, the future of higher education in Wisconsin, and our world-class flagship university, has been facing an uphill climb due to years of poor policy— harming the economic impact higher education generates for our state.¹ The data is clear that UW-Madison is on an unsustainable path, and Badgers United applauds the leadership of Senator Roth (R-Appleton) for proposing bold policy changes to address the crisis.

“UW-Madison has always been a national leader in higher education, but decades of neglect have led to an appalling decline in critical academic and research rankings,” said Peter Kies, Chair of the Badgers United Board. “UW-Madison, and Wisconsin’s higher education more broadly, has never been in a more precarious position, and we are happy to see our elected leaders proposing bold action to put our land-grant university back on the right track.”

Policy Changes Proposed By The Committee Are Supported By Data:

- **Ending The Tuition Freeze And Capping Tuition Increases To Inflation**
 - [*The tuition freeze is not only achieving little in the way of student debt, but it is also jeopardizing the stability of higher education in Wisconsin.*](#)
- **Reorganize The University Of Wisconsin System To Increase Operational Efficiency**
 - [*~15% of current expenditures could be saved through a reorganization,*](#)

¹ UW-Madison's economic impact is \$30.8 billion - activity that impacts all 72 counties.



reallocating funds for programs, tuition costs and other essential needs.

- **Consideration Of Enrollment Levels Before Capital Budget Investment**
 - *Before investing millions of dollars, elected leaders should review Capital Budget projects to confirm their utilization.*

UW-Madison is an incredible resource for our state's economy - serving as Wisconsin's economic engine. The proposed legislative action can offer aid in the short term, ensuring UW-Madison's powerful economic impact is in place to drive the state's recovery forward during the financial crisis created by COVID-19. These changes also provide long-term stability to maintain UW-Madison's positive statewide economic impact and world-class research programs.

Those interested in learning more about Badger United's goals for the state and university, as well as the role UW-Madison plays in Wisconsin's economic success, should visit www.badgersunited.org.

Media interested in interviewing experts from Badgers United should contact Michael Horecki (mhorecki@evokebrands.com).

About Badgers United

Badgers United was formed in 2018 by Wisconsin residents who recognize the University of Wisconsin-Madison's sizeable economic impact on our state, as well as the challenges it must overcome to continue delivering powerful results. It is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates separately from UW-Madison. For more information about Badgers United, visit www.badgersunited.org and facebook.com/badgersunited. You can also follow us on Twitter: [@badgers_united](https://twitter.com/@badgers_united).