

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**UW System Student Representatives Responds to Governor Walker's Proposed "Opt-out" of Student Segregated Fees**

In a press release today, Gov. Walker proposed allowing students to opt-out of paying allocable segregated fees, stating, *"Allocable fees do not go towards long-term commitments or ongoing operational costs of university owned and controlled buildings. They provide support for campus student activities and services that are allocated by campus student government and university chancellors. Allowing an opt-out helps students make the decisions on what they do and do not want to fund."*

As representatives of Wisconsin's 180,000 students, we strongly oppose these proposed changes to allow student to "opt-out" of allocable segregated fees. Students at UW System campuses are a part of a community that benefits from services provided by these reasonable fees. Allowing individual students to opt-out of paying would destabilize the funding of these services and create an administrative burden to ensure only fee-paying students could access the services those fees support.

Student segregated fees are allocated by elected student governments and enable a wide range of services and student-life activities that everyone on campus can benefit from. They provide funding for key services that students can access free of charge, such as tutoring services, rape crisis centers, athletic programs, health services, cost-saving textbook rental programs, student-run radio stations, campus newspapers, and numerous services that facilitate student success. Additionally, student organizations funded by these fees are able to provide leadership and professional development opportunities which help to prepare students for the workforce.

Reducing the funding for vital resources will have a detrimental effect on student success across the board, disproportionately impacting the ability of first generation and low-income groups to fully access educational opportunities. We urge Governor Walker and Wisconsin legislators to reject this harmful proposal.

The University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives is dedicated to serving and protecting the rights of the students of UW System. UW System Student Reps serves as the inter-institutional student government of the UW System and plays an active role in the shared governance structure on a statewide level.

For more information on the UW System student response to Gov. Walker's proposed changes to segregated fees, please contact:

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