



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**UW System Student Representatives**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2/3/2015**

Earlier tonight, Governor Walker announced a \$300 million (or 13%) cut to the University of Wisconsin System's state funding. This cut, combined with \$123.3 million cut from 2011 and the \$343 million from 2013, have reduced UW System funding levels equal to that of the 1980s. The cuts and four year tuition freeze implemented by the Governor will force the UW System and all 26 campuses to consider employee layoffs, as well as a reduction in the programs offered at each respective campus. While the students of Wisconsin understand the necessity to reduce our state's deficit and budget shortfall, a loss of funding would only hinder the efficiencies our campuses have attempted to implement since the last budget cut.

Now, we do concede that there are areas in which the UW System needs to improve. However, we believe these cuts would not address those areas accurately. Rather, the cuts would decimate the faculty members and others that do strive to make UW System the best university system in the country. For students, this would prove detrimental to all, for the loss of faculty and a reduction of programs can lead to a student's extended stay in the UW System, thus increasing the cost-to-degree.

Therefore, with all of this considered, the students of Wisconsin oppose such a drastic cut to UW System funding.