FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 24, 2013

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Former Student Government Leaders Support Joint Committee on Finance Decision to Defend Student Democracy

Following yesterday’s vote on the UW-System Budget by the Joint Finance Committee, former UW-System Student Leaders Cory Fish (UW-Eau Claire Student Body President 2012-2013), Phil Rynish (UW-Eau Claire Student Body President 2011-2012), John Jensen (UW-Whitewater Student Body President 2012-2013), Andrew Bulovsky (UW-Madison Associated Students of Madison Chair 2012-2013), and Troy Nelson (UW-Stout Student Body President 2012-2013) released the following statement:

“The decision by the Joint Committee on Finance to make mandatory refundable fees options for UW-System students is a major victory for students across the state. Over the past several years UW-Eau Claire and many other student governments fought to provide students with a truly democratic statewide student advocacy organization in Wisconsin currently absent in the United Council of UW-Students,” said former UWEC Student Body President Phil Rynish.

"I was very pleased to hear this news. The actions by JFC will allow all students to be better represented, rather than by a select few who are able to attend conventions and leadership selection,” said Andrew Bulovsky former Associated Students of Madison Chair.

“The United Council of UW-Students leadership is chosen by less than one percent of UW-System Students yet collects fees from all students as a condition of enrollment in any UW-System institution. The decision by the Joint Committee on Finance making the mandatory refundable fee optional empowers students to voluntarily join political organizations they agree with instead of being forced to join as a condition of enrollment in our public universities,” said former UWEC Student Body President Cory Fish.

"I am extremely pleased to learn of the news from the Joint Finance Committee. It is refreshing to see the student voice being heard and acted upon in a meaningful and effective manner,” said former UW-Whitewater Student body President John Jensen.

“We are pleased to see Joint Committee on Finance’s strong commitment to truly democratic student self-governance in the UW-System.”

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