

UW-Eau Claire and UW-Eau Claire – Barron County University Staff Council
Resolution on UW-System Presidential Search and Screen

November 12, 2019

On November 1, 2019, the search and screen committee for the UW-System President was announced. It consists of five Regents, one former Regent, two Chancellors, and one Provost, and includes no faculty, academic staff or university staff members, and no students other than the non-traditional Student Regent. The Regents' November 8th response to the letter of concern sent to them by statewide University Staff Chair Jeremy Johanski was disappointing.

This committee was appointed with no outreach to faculty, academic staff, university staff, or students regarding the composition of the committee. This process and decision represent a radical departure from past inclusive search and screen practice and are in direct contradiction to the spirit of Shared Governance for which the University of Wisconsin System is well known.

The office of the President affects the work of every member of the UW-System community, and faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students can provide valuable perspectives on the role of the President which are distinct from those of Regents and Administrators. While we welcome the opportunity of an invitation to participate in the public engagement process, we also recognize that there is a monumental difference between having a voice at a listening session and being directly involved in the discussion and decision-making as a member of the committee. The incoming President will be best served by having the support of an inclusive search process, and our community is best served when all stakeholders have a direct and equal voice through Shared Governance participation in the search and screen committee.

Therefore, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Eau Claire – Barron County University Staff Council objects to the existing composition of the search and screen committee for the new UW-System President, and we call on the Board of Regents to expand the committee to include representation from the faculty, academic staff, university staff, and students before committee work begins.

Upon approval, this resolution shall be transmitted to: Chancellor James Schmidt, Vice Chancellor and Provost Patricia Kleine, UW-System President Ray Cross, Regent President Andrew Petersen and all of the voting members of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, Evan Weiher, chair of the UW-Eau Claire Faculty Senate, and Charles Johnson, President of the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate.

Passed by unanimous vote 11/12/2019