

**Chancellor Martin Question/Answer at Academic Staff Assembly – 5/10/2010,  
3:45pm – 4:10 pm**

*Brief notes/interpretations by Jim Rogers. Quotes are not at all verbatim.*

*You've read my long email [attached below] so I don't want to repeat that. I'll take questions you have.*

**Won't the bus fee for staff simply be another cut in our pay?**

*I'm less familiar with the specifics of that but I'll listen to your concerns.*

**General comments/question about State furlough and how it does not work for soft money / federal grants?**

Biddy Martin spoke strongly of how this system does not work, she told Gov Doyle that before he signed it, and continues to speak of not having the way it is.

**Audience comment on the accounting nightmare for the State furlough. We could bring this up for the need to provide flexibility.**

I don't think we will get too far along on this strategy because there are some concerns about blocking lawsuits. We are trying every tactic we can think of. If you think of others, I'd be happy to listen. We have asked for a recording of the administrative work required to handle furloughs and if furloughs are discussed again in the future, this information will be shared.

**With Robert W. Woods grant expiration for PAVE, how will UW-Madison continue to support an alcohol abuse reduction.**

*UW-Madison alcohol strategy hasn't changed. We continue to partially fund City of Madison alcohol coordinator? We will defeat excessive drinking by undergraduates. We will improve this situation. The culture of Wisconsin may, indeed, make certain things worse. Most leaders in higher ed who are responsible for student welfare are in constant communication with each other and adopting best practices, although without having any "silver bullet."*

**How's the puppy, Oscar?**

*He is great. Pet Therapy day [where UW staff bring their pets and UW-Madison students have a chance to play with them] on Library Mall was good, although I think he needs therapy after that.*

**Where is the campus going after Plan 2008. Will there be a new plan?**

*We haven't put out a document that is similar to Plan 2008 and a question is 'Will we?' There are many questions. How much can we invest for people of color? We do need some form of accountability and how we are making progress. But we may not need to have numbers to achieve that. The achievement gap has been decreased in the last year. There has been money contributed to undergraduate education allowing for hiring of 75 more faculty, with a look at diversity in selection. David Williams has been hard at work on a range of activities and proposals. In the absence of a plan there is a lot going on and there always will be. We have already invested money from reallocated funds in admissions that is already in the works.*

## **Additional Comments**

*The long-term health of the university relies on more autonomy from the State. About 18% of the University funding comes from the State. Constraints are out of our control – purchasing and more. No business would be in business if they were told what to pay, how many staff there would be, what the tuition would be, etc.*

*We need flexibility in all of the areas, pay setting, tuition, position titles, . . . We need to be able to use the funding we have to reward individuals for merit even when there is no pay plan. We need to maintain the University being affordable. The State Legislature could be supportive of UW-Madison being a pilot of having greater control say for 3 or 5 years. Then it can be seen if other campuses can follow suit. UW-Madison, unlike other campuses, has our own facilities staff. I've spoken with gubernatorial candidates and this summer I'll be talking with legislators. Instead of going for these items of flexibility one topic at a time, we need to look at a new relationship with the State. As long as we are going for one topic at a time with the legislature, we will continue to be shot down. One gubernatorial candidate is discussing whether to have that as a platform item but is also asking for reduced funding as a part of that agreement. We are looking to have both flexibility and State resources.*

**Related to diversity, it looks like you'll be rolling out strategies. What chance will there be for the campus members to react and give feedback about those strategies?**

*The vice-provost for diversity has now done that for a year-and-a-half. The degree of consultations he has is more than I've seen for any project I've been on. I'm surprised to hear you say that, Heather. He has met with so many people.*

## **Question on Future Budget Cuts**

*It can be important to look at quality outside consultants to see how else UW-Madison can achieve savings in our operations.*

## **On Long Emails from Biddy Martin**

*These emails have a chance to let you know where I'm going and for you to tell me where I am wrong.*

**The Madison Initiative is good, but there is a cloud over the funding. The rich are getting richer.**

*It is true that some large departments have over enrollment pressures and they will get a larger share. To have a successful proposal, it's good to look at successful proposals. One of the members of the Student Board sent a note to English department faculty and said that it would be helpful for the faculty to attend one of the Student Board workshops for faculty on how to write a good proposal.*