

SUMMARY OF JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE ACTION ON UW SYSTEM BUDGET

May 29, 2015

The following is a summary of the major changes to the Governor's budget proposal approved by the Joint Finance Committee today. The complete motion that includes all of the changes can be found [here](#).

- Deleted all items related to the Governor's proposal to convert the UW System to a public authority
- Reduced the base budget reduction by \$25M annually, so the total GPR base budget reduction over the biennium would be \$250M rather than \$300M
- Provided \$21M in funding for projected increases in fringe benefit costs in the 15-17 biennium
- Restored funding for various programs such as the physician and dentist and health care provider loan assistance programs, the rural physician residency assistance program, environmental program grants and scholarships, the discovery farm grants program and grants for forestry programs
- Permitted the use of base funds to provide salary adjustments to recognize merit
- Maintained shared governance in state statutes but modified current law as it relates to the role of chancellors, faculty, academic staff and students
- Modified current law to specify that the Board of Regents may, with appropriate notice and following a specified process, terminate any faculty or academic staff appointment when such an action is deemed necessary due to a budget or program decision regarding program discontinuance, curtailment, modification, or redirection
- Made changes needed to ensure that UW-Madison can implement its own Human Resources/Personnel System beginning July 1, 2015.
- Allowed UW System to create its own purchasing and procurement policies separate from those that apply to other state agencies, subject to approval by the Joint Committee on Finance
- Made several changes related to the state building project approval process as it relates to the construction of UW buildings
- Retained the State Lab of Hygiene and the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab as part of UW-Madison
- Required the Board of Regents to create an Office of Educational Opportunity that would have the authority to authorize independent charter schools in the UW System.

In addition, the Joint Finance Committee previously approved \$86.2M in state bonding and \$21.5M in gifts, grants and other funds for the construction of a UW-Madison Chemistry Building Addition and Renovation for a total project budget of \$107.7M.