

2. Collective Bargaining Rights for University of Wisconsin System Faculty, Academic Staff and Research Assistants

Sections 2254L and 2255

These provisions allow faculty, academic staff and research assistants of the University of Wisconsin System the right to enter into collective bargaining. Research assistants are defined as graduate students enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System who are receiving a stipend to conduct research which is independent or self-directed. Students on a student or exchange visa or those provided fellowships, scholarships and traineeships that are distributed through other titles such as fellow, scholar or trainee are excluded. In addition, this provision allows the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission to assign faculty and academic staff to collective bargaining units.

I am partially vetoing this provision because it requires research assistants who have formed into collective bargaining units to be initially represented by the Teaching Assistant Association and allows the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission (WERC) to assign faculty and staff to bargaining units. I object to these provisions because employees who form bargaining units should be allowed to select the labor organization that will represent them. This veto is consistent with the intent of the Legislature on this matter. The provision that allows WERC to assign faculty and staff to bargaining units is unnecessary since it is redundant with WERC authority under current law.