



July 6, 2009

President Kevin Reilly
1720 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

Dear President Reilly:

For many years, ASPRO has lobbied to ensure that academic staff were protected if collective bargaining rights were granted to the UW System faculty and academic staff. We were happy that the language passed as part of the biennial budget bill provided that faculty and academic staff could be in the same collective bargaining unit.

ASPRO was dismayed, however, to learn that the seemingly innocuous language in the budget referring to WERC powers was an effort by certain legislators and certain unions to deny up to 4000 academic staff members the right to vote on whether they wish to be represented by a union and to choose which union should provide that representation.

ASPRO joined the UW System in lobbying for the veto of the language by Governor Doyle.

Unfortunately, the veto only postpones the WERC's consideration of "unit clarification." ASPRO is unequivocally opposed to this kind of siphoning off of academic staff positions to unions representing other state employees. The roles and responsibilities of the academic staff are unique to the university and higher education. Academic staff, therefore, must remain unified as an employment category defined by State Statutes. If the positions currently targeted by unions were to be reclassified, the role of academic staff in shared governance and as partners with the faculty in carrying out the mission of the University of Wisconsin System would be jeopardized.

ASPRO would like to work with you to address the issues presented by unit clarification. We respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the issue and how our organization can collaborate with you and your staff.

ASPRO staff will be contacting your office to make arrangements for a meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVE CARLSON
President

Cc: Al Crist
Board of Regents
Academic Staff Representatives Council