

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**GORDON HINTZ**

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY  
March 10, 2011

54th DISTRICT

Larry Rubin  
Associate Vice President  
Office Student Affairs & Academic Support Services  
1604 Van Hise Hall Room 1604  
1220 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Mr. Rubin,

I am writing to follow up on my letter dated June 22, 2010 related to the use and oversight of student segregated fees in the UW System and the clarification of student oversight throughout the UW System. While I did receive a follow-up phone call related to my letter, I did not receive any written clarification or clear answer to reassure me as a Legislator that the conditions for appropriate use and oversight of student segregated are clear to campus administrators and student government segregated university fee allocation committees (SUFAC).

As we debate and analyze Governor Walker's 2011-2013 proposed budget, it is more important than ever that we protect against funding cuts and decisions that seek to intentionally or unintentionally push the burden of funding onto the backs of students. A pillar of student governance in the UW System is that the students have clear involvement and oversight in determining how to use their fees which are set aside for student groups and activities. This includes the power to endorse or provide input on fees that are increasingly used to fund such projects as the student union and student health services. However, as State Auditor Jan Mueller recently indicated in her 2010 audit, the university needs to more clearly define the procedures followed when students want to change the structure of student government and to approve and remove the campus administration's appointed staff advisor.

Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5) states that:

*"The students of each institution or campus subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, the chancellor, and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. As such, students shall have the primary responsibility for the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests. Students in consultation with the chancellor and subject to the final confirmation of the board shall have the responsibility for the disposition of those student fees which constitute substantial support for campus student activities. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance."*

Specifically the policy stated in the UW System's Financial Administration of Segregated Fees (<http://www.wisconsin.edu/fadmin/fppp/fppp50.htm>) states:

*The student group organized at each UW institution for the purpose of engaging in the allocation process under s. 36.09(5), Wis. Stats., is referred to in this policy as the Student University Fee Allocation Committee or "SUFAC."*

My specific inquiry was conducted in response to recent decisions and actions made by the UW Stevens Point administration after I was contacted by current and former students. My understanding of clear and defined involvement and oversight are best designated in SS36.09(5), recognizing the power of Student Government Associations (SGA) and by association the respective SUFAC on each campus.

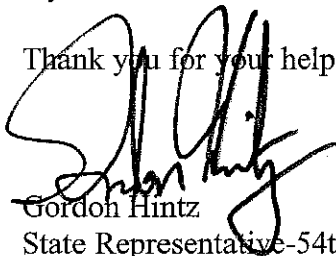
Any discussions by campus staff with student government leaders attempting to have final authority of the allocation of student segregated fees without the involvement of the recognized SUFAC would not be in compliance with UW Regents Policy. Again, during a time of extremely tight budgets, the transparency and involvement of the appropriate designated student body authority is more important than ever to protect all students from attempts secure rate increases and revenue without proper consultation.

It is expected that campus administrators and staff will include student government leaders in the formation of budgets that have a direct impact on student segregated fees through the appropriate designation made in SS36.09(5). Beyond the approval of the appropriate SUFAC, it is strongly recommended and expected that budgets will not be presented to students in completed form ready for little more than their approval. SGA and SUFAC should be involved in the individual budget development before decisions are made.

As a member of the Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities as well as the Representative for the Assembly District with the third largest university in Wisconsin, I have a strong interest and concern about issues related to students, student self governance, and costs for higher education. The main reason for my letter is to proactively encourage the appropriate recognition of the student involvement and oversight in use of student segregated fees as defined in Regent policy and also in spirit. Anything short of a clear process before, during, and after the development of the budget will be unacceptable.

I appreciate your time and compliance with this letter and look forward to hearing back from you if there are any questions or explanations. If you have any other questions please feel free to call my office at 608-266-2254 or email me at [rep.hintz@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.hintz@legis.wi.gov).

Thank you for your help and consideration,



Gordon Hintz  
State Representative-54th District