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October 16, 2017

TO: The Honorable Scott Walker, Governor
Jeffrey Renk, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Senate
Patrick E. Fuller, Chief Clerk, Wisconsin State Assembly

FROM: Ray Cross, President, University of Wisconsin System

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross".

RE: 2015-17 Biennial Report required under s. 36.55 Wisconsin Statutes

In accordance with Section 15.04(1)(d), Wisconsin Statutes and Department of Administration instructions, the University of Wisconsin System is pleased to present you with its annual accountability information to fulfill its 2015-17 Biennial Report requirement. As per DOA instructions, agencies that publish an annual report may submit that report as the required biennial report.

The UW System's 2017 legislated accountability information has been developed based upon requirements in Chapter 36.65. This information is currently delivered via the UW System Accountability Dashboard, found at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/accountability/>. This website also contains supplemental materials on accountability measures not suitable to the dashboard format. Together with the dashboard, a wealth of data is available about our academic and operational performance.

In addition to the Accountability Report, the UW System is providing links to information on two major initiatives. The first is the completion of our strategic framework, *2020FWD*, and its current implementation phase, <https://www.wisconsin.edu/2020FWD/>. The second is the proposed consolidation of the UW Colleges with regional comprehensive campuses to increase educational accessibility and address state workforce needs. The press announcement for this October 2017 development can be found at <https://www.wisconsin.edu/news/archive/uw-system-to-restructure-uw-colleges-and-uw-extension-to-expand-access-to-higher-education/>. Questions relating to this change can be directed to <http://go.uwsa.edu/restructurefeedback>. More web resources on this plan will be available in the coming months.

The UW System Strategic Planning process focused on developing human, intellectual, and social capital across the State of Wisconsin. It resulted in four key tenets: educational pipeline, business and community mobilization, university experience, and operational excellence. After Board of Regents approval in August 2016, the *2020FWD* framework became the basis of UW System's 2017-19 Biennial Budget Request. During the legislative process, implementation efforts began, and continue currently, to ensure the most effective and efficient alignment of limited resources with UW System priorities and responsibilities.

Finally, on October 11, 2017, UW System announced a major reorganization that would integrate UW Colleges campuses into UW four-year institutions, effective July 1, 2018. This plan includes assigning divisions within UW-Extension to UW-Madison and UW System Administration. The restructuring proposal will come before the Board of Regents in November seeking approval to proceed with implementation planning. This initiative, prompted by declining enrollments and statewide aging trends, is designed to result in expanded educational access, reductions to transfer barriers, increased affordability, improved economies of scale, and a regionalization focus that will better meet Wisconsin's workforce needs.

I hope that this information is useful. Please contact me with any questions or comments.