



The following statement was issued Thursday (Feb. 17) by the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Alumni Association:

“We strongly believe that the New Badger Partnership is the best way for the University of Wisconsin to forge a new partnership with the citizens of Wisconsin. Wisconsin alumni are universally committed to maintaining quality education at the university. All of Wisconsin benefits from the job-creating impact of a billion-dollar research institution in our state, and the university’s groundbreaking research improves the quality of life for everyone.

“Today, UW-Madison and higher education institutions across the world face great challenges to achieving these goals while operating with less taxpayer support from both state and federal sources. Chancellor Biddy Martin PhD’85 has worked with elected officials, campus partners and the Wisconsin Alumni Association for the past several months to create a new partnership between the state and the university. We applaud Chancellor Martin for her vision and her leadership during these challenging times.

“The Wisconsin Alumni Association was established in 1861 to engage alumni and to advocate for support from the Wisconsin Legislature to the University of Wisconsin. This year, as we celebrate 150 years of fulfilling our mission to be the most vocal and visible voice in support of our university, such advocacy is a core part of the Wisconsin Alumni Association, and it is a responsibility taken seriously by generations of Wisconsin alumni.

“We strongly encourage Governor Walker, the Legislature, the Board of Regents, UW System administration and all other UW institutions to work cooperatively with Chancellor Martin to make this new partnership a success and a model that can ultimately benefit public higher education across the state.

“As Chancellor Martin so eloquently stated, “Given the state’s serious economic challenges and the budget cut we expect to face, the greatest risk to the quality of this institution will be reductions in funding without the flexibility to respond in new and different ways.”

“As members of the national Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Alumni Association, we share Chancellor Martin’s optimism for the future of our great university and endorse her vision for a new partnership to ensure these goals for the future are realized. On Wisconsin!”

Renee Ramirez ’83, chair, Waukesha
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Peter Christianson ’71, JD’77, Madison

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