An open letter to the campus community:

As deans of the schools and colleges of UW-Madison, we are writing to share our support for additional flexibilities that Chancellor Martin has been advocating as part of the New Badger Partnership.

We know that all of you are aware of the budgetary pressures that the state of Wisconsin is currently facing. These pressures have created many open questions about our relationship with the state. As deans, we know with certainty that our community remains strongly committed to providing the best education possible, conducting groundbreaking research, and serving the citizens of Wisconsin and the world through our outreach programs.

As Chancellor Martin has said as part of the “New Badger Partnership,” state regulations are costly to our operation and often impede our ability to learn and create. Administrative flexibilities in the areas of procurement, purchasing, employee compensation, tuition management, and construction would allow our faculty and staff more time in the classroom and in the lab, working with our students and Wisconsin citizens. In return for these additional management tools, we would readily accept tangible accountability measures to demonstrate our successes to our students and to the citizens of Wisconsin.

For more than 150 years, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has been educating leaders for Wisconsin, the nation and the world. Our students have used their education to start businesses, lead, educate, and care for their local communities, and attract further investments to Wisconsin. Our faculty and staff bring one billion dollars of research investments to Wisconsin annually and the University serves as a strong economic engine for the state. We also provide continuing education to more than 100,000 professionals each year.

Even in difficult budget times, we believe the state can enhance its investment in the university by offering us these types of flexibilities. We encourage Governor Walker, the Legislature and UW System to work with Chancellor Martin to realize the goals of the New Badger Partnership for the benefit of our students and Wisconsin.

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Joan Schmit, Interim Dean, Business
Julie Underwood, Dean, Education
Paul Prevec, Dean, Engineering
Robin Doudtth, Dean, Human Ecology
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