

Response to Wisconsin Legislative Action

Dear ASHE Member:

We are closely monitoring recent actions by the Wisconsin state legislature and Board of Regents. While the situation is dynamic, it is clear that the legislative action in Wisconsin represents a direct and blatant threat to academic freedom, a cornerstone of the university and a core value proposition of higher education in civil society.

In our view, this action is fundamentally political and not grounded in evidence about the degree to which tenure and academic freedom achieve their purpose. Academic freedom is essential to enabling the university to reveal answers to the world's most fundamental questions and addressing its most urgent problems. This challenge to academic freedom and shared governance comes at a time when, across the nation, the role of faculty is also being eroded by the replacement of tenure-line faculty with an increasingly contingent workforce and reductions in public funding for higher education.

We will continue to monitor the unfolding events and will work with the ASHE Board to identify appropriate actions. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions about the best ways for ASHE, a scholarly community that studies these very issues, to meaningfully engage in and respond to this situation.

Laura Perna
ASHE President

Scott Thomas
ASHE President-Elect

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