



# Tony Evers

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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April 3, 2026

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 757 in its entirety.

This bill would make statutory changes to clarify that all limited staff appointments are to be made by and serve at the pleasure of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, except that the system president and chancellors may continue to make certain appointments as under current law. The board would not be able to delegate its authority to make limited appointments. For limited appointments, the board would have to approve the title, salary, and position description, and include this information, along with the number of limited appointments at each institution, in its annual report to the Legislature and the Governor.

Additionally, the bill states that faculty may not restrict eligibility of faculty members to serve on, or to lead, a faculty committee, academic department, center, or program based on rank, tenure status, faculty title, or attainment of a terminal degree. Faculty for this purpose is defined as all individuals who have more than a 50 percent appointment and whose job duties consist primarily of teaching or research, or who are serving as an academic department, center, or program chairperson or director, which includes academic staff. The bill states that being included in the definition of faculty for this purpose does not confer rank, tenure, or other appointment changes.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to the Legislature's ongoing efforts to undermine the University of Wisconsin System and the Board of Regents by inserting itself into the daily decision-making on University of Wisconsin campuses.

I object to the Legislature infringing upon our higher educational boards' authorities, respectively, to manage our state's respective higher education institutions as they see fit, including ensuring admitted students have the preparation, skills, and potential to be successful on our campuses. The boards governing our state's higher education institutions are not an extension of any branch of government or political party. On the contrary, these boards have long been entrusted with the independence and autonomy to not only make the decisions that are best for our students and our campuses but to protect the institutions that have defined our state for generations. Our higher education governing boards must continue to be able to do so without political interference from the Legislature.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to limiting the board's ability to govern efficiently. It has always been my belief—then as a regent for over a decade and now as governor—that the Board of Regents should have the independence and autonomy necessary to make the decisions they need to about what is best for students, faculty and staff, and the success and longevity of our state's higher education institutions.



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Finally, I must also veto this bill because I object to the potential it may unnecessarily undermine shared governance in Wisconsin, which is antithetical to the Wisconsin Idea and the very founding of our state's higher education institutions. While there may be circumstances in which the standards set forth in the bill would be appropriate, there may be other positions and circumstances in which these prohibitions would unnecessarily restrict the board. The Board of Regents exists for a reason, which is to provide governance and direction to the University of Wisconsin System, and we should trust them to do just that without enduring ongoing legislative micromanagement and interference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers  
Governor