



July 28, 2015

GARY L. MILLER
Chancellor

Dr. Jon Butler, President
Organization of American Historians
112 N. Bryan Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47408-4141

Dear Dr. Butler:

I am most appreciative of the support of the Executive Committee of the Organization of American Historians for your strong commitment to academic freedom and tenure as foundational to the ideals of intellectual inquiry and discovery that are the hallmarks of the American Academy. These ideals are particularly important to us at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay where the effectiveness of our interdisciplinary undergraduate curriculum depends on free inquiry.

The recently approved budget of the State of Wisconsin removed the provisions for tenure from the state statutes (Wisconsin was the only state to establish tenure in the state statutes) and authorized the Board of Regents to promulgate rules related to tenure, in particular the provisions under which layoffs of tenured faculty may occur. Prior to the enactment of the new budget, the Board of Regents unanimously supported tenure as a key principle to be preserved in Wisconsin. A system-wide task force (of which I am a member) has been charged with developing Board rules related to tenure and has begun its work.

The effect of the new legislation is to place Wisconsin in the same circumstances as all other states with respect to tenure. Faculty at all of the system universities will be involved in the development of tenure policies. The support of the Organization of American Historians, and many other scholarly organizations, is most important as we work to ensure tenure and academic freedom remain strong in Wisconsin and elsewhere in the country.

I am fully supportive of tenure, academic freedom and the shared governance processes that ensure the intellectual vitality of the university. I will work with great energy in the coming months to ensure these remain part of the Wisconsin university system.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Miller
Chancellor

C: Ray Cross, President, University of Wisconsin System
Clif Gaynard, Chair, UW-Green Bay University Committee

I N N O V A T I O N T R A N S F O R M A T I O N P L A C E