

UNIVERSITY OF  
WISCONSIN  
OSHKOSH

July 14, 2015

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

Dear Dr. Butler:

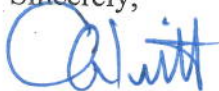
Thank you for sharing with me the statement of the Organization of American Historians concerning the developments that have taken place with regard to Wisconsin's statutory treatment of tenure. As Wisconsin's budget process was moving toward the conclusion reached just last Sunday, we were all struck by the dynamic nature of the discussion and debate over the reduction in funding levels, frozen tuition, shared governance and, central to your communication, the very concept of tenure.

We are living in times of change, challenge and turmoil. Having arrived in Wisconsin last November, I have had an excellent opportunity to see how movements and shifts in the public policy framework impact institutions and the people who work, serve and learn here.

At UW Oshkosh we have a strong history and a rich tradition of leadership, innovation and active support for broad, open and strong patterns of shared governance. The commitment we have toward our tenured faculty and the very concept of tenure itself has not changed, and will not change, as a result of the changes in law that moved the definition of tenure from the statutes to the policies of the Board of Regents.

We do appreciate and thank the external organizations who have all stepped forward to voice opinions and ideas relating to these important concepts. We know that other states are likely to look to Wisconsin – and we hope that they see the pattern of strong and unwavering commitment to the principles, the promise and the practice of academic freedom and the pursuit of knowledge, truth and enhanced understanding.

Sincerely,



Andrew Leavitt  
Chancellor

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