



ASM
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Associated Students of Madison

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GOV. WALKER PROPOSES ALLOCABLE STUDENT FEE OPT-OUT STUDENTS FEAR ELIMINATION OF TRANSPORTATION, ORGANIZATION FUNDING

MADISON, WI — Gov. Scott Walker proposed today making optional student fees that are necessary for providing vital services such as transportation and support for a diverse array of student organizations.

Colin Barushok is the chair of the Associated Students of Madison's (ASM) Student Services Finance Committee, which allocates segregated fees to services and organizations.

"This proposal is an attempt to undermine student authority over distributing their own fees," Barushok said. "The transportation budget is one example of where problems may occur. Sixty-eight

percent of students at UW-Madison picked up a bus pass last semester. Students depend on access to transportation on our 936-acre campus, and would struggle to get to classes and, eventually, graduate, if they didn't have that option."

Ariela Rivkin is the chair of ASM's Grant Allocation Committee, which would be directly affected by the proposal.

"Allocable segregated fees are the number one way we empower our students," she said. "I have approved upwards of 600 grants on this campus, and in them I have seen a stunning showcase of passionate and diverse opinions. This proposal takes all that work, along with our ability to empower that passion, and throws it out the window."

Gov. Walker also proposed cutting in-state tuition by five percent, and met the UW Board of Regent's request of \$42.5 million in new state funding, although it is tied to performance-based measures.

Kim Wroblewski, a freshman on ASM's Legislative Affairs committee, said that new funding will help students.

"With our full budget request met, this opens up a lot of opportunities for the UW System to move forward from past setbacks," she said.



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Yogev Ben-Yitschak, also freshman on ASM's Legislative Affairs committee, said that the performance-based measures are a negative. "Performance based funding would indicate that some fields are more important than others, negatively impacting some students' education and the reason they chose this university," he said.

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