

TO: Legislative Colleagues  
FROM: Representative Pat Strachota  
RE: Co-sponsorship of LRB 3202/1 Giving the UW System authority to create an Optional Retirement Plan for New Hires  
DATE: January 12, 2012

**DEADLINE: January 23, 2012 by 4:30 PM**

I am introducing LRB-3202/1, which would give the UW System the authority to create an optional retirement plan for new employees hired after the effective date of the bill.

Right now UW System campuses are at a competitive disadvantage because Wisconsin does not offer access to the type of retirement plan which is standard in higher education across the country. Every other Big Ten university, including the University of Nebraska, offers access to such a plan.

This is currently is in state statues in 48, Wisconsin and South Dakota are the only states that do not have anything in the state statues. Currently professors and academic staff members at public universities in 46 states are permitted to enroll in a defined contribution retirement plan which is offered as an alternative to the standard state plan in those states. Professors and academic staff members at colleges and universities are highly mobile and may move multiple times during their careers. Virtually all private colleges and universities in the country provide access to a defined contribution plan, which means that faculty and academic staff can move from institution to institution, public or private, and still retain a single retirement account.

Under the bill, the UW System would be given discretionary authority to create an optional retirement plan for new hires. The bill does not mandate creation of such a plan – it merely confers authority to create such a plan on the Board of Regents.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation please contact Rep. Strachota's office 264-8486 by January 23, 2012 by 4:30pm.