Speaker Vos and President Rothman’s potential deal would deeply harm UW students and the state of Wisconsin

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The members of AFT-Wisconsin today denounce the unnecessary and shameful deal UW System President Jay Rothman appear poised to agree to with Assembly Speaker Robin Vos.

"We await the details, but this potential deal represents a cynical political move all the way around," said Jon Shelton, a professor at UW-Green Bay and AFT-Wisconsin VP of Higher Education. "We would very much like to see Republican leaders in the Assembly finally agree to do their job and allocate UW workers a desperately needed cost of living adjustment. But these pay raises were funded by a budget that they already voted for, and dispensing them now should not come at the high price of cutting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which is a lifeline for our students and essential for them to have the kind of education they deserve. Further, our state holds a $4 billion surplus. The UW system shouldn’t have to cave to Republican demands to force conservative ideology into our campuses’ marketplace of ideas in order to receive a miniscule portion of the funding we desperately need to ensure student success.”

“Real leadership means standing up for our values and fighting for the resources our public university system needs,” said Kim Kohlhaas, elected President of AFT-Wisconsin. “If the UW system’s administrative leaders won’t lead that fight, the members of our higher education locals across the state will because our students, and the Wisconsin Idea, are too important not to. AFT-Wisconsin unions and their members at campuses across the state believe in a better UW System that helps all workers, students, and local communities.”

AFT-Wisconsin is a labor union comprised of over 500 different public job classifications, including the Pre-K12 school system, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), numerous state agencies, and the University of Wisconsin system.