



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds  
A. John Voelker  
SECRETARY

Wisconsin Department  
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## Correspondence Memorandum

**Date:** May 25, 2021  
**To:** Employee Trust Funds Board  
**From:** Cherylynn Wilkins, Board Liaison  
Office of the Secretary  
**Subject:** Board Correspondence

**This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.**

The Department of Employee Trust Funds occasionally receives correspondence on behalf of the Employee Trust Funds (Board) regarding proposed or recent changes to the Wisconsin Retirement System and other benefits.

Since the September 17, 2020, Board meeting, the following communication has been submitted for the Board's consideration:

1. March 31, 2021 – Mail Correspondence – Starner

Correspondence for Board consideration is welcome via email to [BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov](mailto:BoardFeedback@etf.wi.gov) or postal mail to Department of Employee Trust Funds, c/o ETF Board Liaison, P.O. Box 7931, Madison, WI 53707-7931.

Staff will be at the Board meeting to answer any questions.

Reviewed and approved by Pamela Henning, Assistant Deputy Secretary

Electronically Signed 6/4/21

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
ETF	6.17.21	5H

**From:** [Tim Starnier](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** Request for policy changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021 9:27:18 AM

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Dear ETF board

I would like to strongly request you change your policies. Only having once a year statements and giving that information by the postal mail service is a very outdated and ineffective means of communication. Furthermore, there are matters, such as divorce, where there very often will be need for statements that are on dates that are different from your annual statements.

I would highly suggest ETF enter the 20th century and have computer access to employee accounts with updated account information on an ongoing basis. The current policies do a disservice to anyone who's employer chose to use ETF for retirement benefits. I would note that ETF's available account information pales in comparison to other retirement accounts such as TIAA.

Thank you for your consideration

Tim Starnier



Dear Mr. Starner,

Thank you for contacting the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF). Your email was addressed to the ETF Board. The Board Chair asked me to respond on the Board's behalf.

You asked ETF to send Wisconsin Retirement Systems (WRS) statements more than once a year. The reason WRS statements are sent once a year is because balances only change once a year. Unlike 401(k) plans, the WRS is a pension plan and interest is only credited on an annual basis.

If a person in the WRS has a life changing event, such as a divorce, that adjusts the account balance through a qualified domestic relations order, ETF sends forms to that person with the adjusted account information in the interim before the next statement.

You also asked ETF to provide statements in a different way than through the mail. You are an employee of the University of Wisconsin (UW) and most UW employees can access their WRS statements through the UW online portal. Please check with your employer if you have questions about the UW portal.

ETF is working to provide statements online in the future and currently we have some online services for members, such as the ability to schedule and conduct a retirement appointment online, the ability to submit some forms to ETF electronically, and the ability to attend webinars. We will continue to improve our systems to implement online services.

Again, thank you for reaching out to ETF. I hope this helps answer your questions; however, if you have additional questions, please reach out to me by email at [Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov](mailto:Matthew.Stohr@etf.wi.gov) or via phone at (608)-266-1210.

Sincerely,

Matt Stohr, Administrator, Division of Retirement Services  
Department of Employee Trust Funds

CC: Wayne Koessler, ETF Board Chair