

### **Resolution Supporting the Continuation of the Public History Project**

(1) Whereas, the UW-Madison Public History Project was created by Chancellor Rebecca Blank in 2018, in response to recommendations of the Ad Hoc Study Group on the Ku Klux Klan at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which studied the history of two UW-Madison student organizations in the early 1920s that bore the name of the Ku Klux Klan;<sup>1</sup>

(2) Whereas, the intent of the Public History Project is to “reclaim and celebrate the voices of those who endured, fought, and overcame prejudice on campus, not just in the early 1900s, but throughout the history of the university;”<sup>2</sup>

(3) Whereas this work must continue, as we know our campus climate continues to present challenges for underrepresented and marginalized students, staff, and faculty;

(4) Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is approaching its 175th anniversary;

(5) Whereas, the work of the Project has made important contributions to the university’s knowledge of itself, including curricular materials, departmental outreach, an extensive archival research database, and most recently a 3,300 square foot exhibit devoted to stories of reckoning and resistance at the university;

(6) Whereas, “Sifting & Reckoning: UW–Madison’s History of Exclusion and Resistance” is the first exhibit of its kind in higher education and serves as a model for other institutions;<sup>3</sup>

(7) Whereas, continuation of the Public History Project would create further opportunities for student and community engagement and learning, curricular development, research, and archival work;

(8) Whereas, the work of the Public History Project is commensurate with UW-Madison’s core value to “encourage that continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found;”

(9) Whereas, our university’s ongoing commitment to inclusion and belonging in the future is bolstered by its reckoning with its history, because by recognizing our history we

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.wisc.edu/content/uploads/2018/04/Study-Group-final-for-print-April-18.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://publichistoryproject.wisc.edu/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://chazen.wisc.edu/exhibitions/sifting-reckoning-uw-madisons-history-of-exclusion-and-resistance/>

are less likely to repeat missteps of the past;

(10) Whereas the Public History Project's work enables us to engage with our history in ways that are positive, productive, and transformative;

(11) Therefore, be it resolved that the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly urges the Chancellor to ensure the continuation of the Public History Project, providing funding and resources to support the project's ongoing work;

(12) Therefore, be it further resolved that the project is resourced to examine experiences of staff as well as faculty and students;

(13) Therefore, be it further resolved that the Academic Staff Assembly believes in a core tenet of the Project, "that reckoning with our history can lead us to a better future, and that unless we acknowledge and learn from our past, we cannot move forward together. The future is not yet written. What happens next is up to us."