

UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly Resolution Calling for a New Social Compact with the State of Wisconsin

Whereas state funding (GPR) for UW-Madison has declined by 25% in the past decade; and

Whereas salaries and benefits for academic staff and faculty lag significantly behind their institutional peers; and

Whereas UW-Madison is doing its part to rein in costs by examining ways to more effectively handle administrative processes through the Administrative Excellence project and reassessing how it pursues teaching and learning endeavors through the Educational Innovation project; and

Whereas both of these projects will improve efficiency and provide cost savings that can be reinvested in UW-Madison; and

Whereas savings in program revenue accounts have often been taken by the state directly or through subsequent budget cuts, effectively eliminating the incentive for the UW-Madison to save for large projects or to become more efficient;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Staff Assembly of the University of Wisconsin-Madison joins the UW-Madison Faculty Senate and UW System President Reilly in calling on the governor, state legislators, business leaders, university administrators, and the people of the state of Wisconsin to forge a *new social compact* between UW-Madison, UW System and the State of Wisconsin. This compact would require that UW-Madison and UW System put forth meaningful elements of accountability and that the State of Wisconsin offer significant flexibilities for and financial commitment to public higher education. If UW-Madison and the UW System institutions are to continue offering educational excellence and serving as one of the largest economic engines for the state of Wisconsin, then the current course of low tuition and shrinking state support cannot continue. This compact is essential for job creation, the emergence of new technologies and industries, and the overall economic growth in Wisconsin as well as for the well-being of its residents.