

Resolution in Response to the Proposed Budget Cuts to UW System

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin is facing significant financial challenges in the next biennium and as a state agency UW System is expected to share in the responsibility of balancing the budget;

Whereas, the biennial budget proposal includes a \$300 million cut to UW System;

Whereas, the educational mission of the university system, supporting the teaching and learning of 180,000 students, is funded primarily by state general purpose revenue and tuition;

Whereas, a major reduction in state support would diminish the quality, breadth, and access to education for Wisconsin residents at a time when admission applications to UW-Madison are increasing;

Whereas, there has been a historical compact between the State of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to provide a world-class education to students in the State of Wisconsin partially financed by state funding, which has greatly reduced the tuition burden on students and their families;

Whereas, the proposed permanent cut in the biennial budget proposal would be the largest in the history of the University and return funding from the state to 1998 levels;

Whereas, it takes significant resources to maintain a world-class institution that competes on an international scale;

Whereas, only 34% (approx. 1918) of academic staff FTEs are supported by state funds, gifts and grants support 54% (approx. 3027) of academic staff FTEs, and the remaining 12% (approx. 693) of academic staff FTEs are funded on program revenue;

Whereas, at the request of the legislature, the University of Wisconsin-Madison worked to draw down its discretionary reserves during the last biennium; and

Whereas, UW-Madison only has \$54 million in discretionary reserves remaining, which would cover less than a week of operations for the University;

Whereas, UW-Madison is an economic and job creation engine for the state of Wisconsin. For every dollar the state invests in UW-Madison, the university returns \$21.05 in economic activity. UW-Madison ranked 4th in Research and Development expenditures for universities in the US and 5th in the number of patents filed. UW-Madison has consistently been ranked in the top 5 for R&D expenditures for more than 25 years.

Therefore Be It Resolved, the permanent cuts proposed for the 26 campuses, colleges and extension of the University of Wisconsin are too large for these institutions to absorb;

Therefore Be It Resolved, the cuts should be flexible regarding the amount of reduction for each year; and

Therefore Be It Resolved, the cuts should be reduced.