

Resolution on Operational Flexibilities for UW System

Whereas, due to the unique nature of higher education compared to other state agencies, the University of Wisconsin System has long sought flexibilities from the state in the areas of human resources, procurement and capital projects;

Whereas, peer and competitor institutions have operational flexibilities, and the 2009 UW-Madison reaccreditation report from the Higher Learning Commission states, “Still, because of state regulation and system processes, UW-Madison lacks many fundamental operating options that peer and competitor institutions typically enjoy.”;

Whereas, human resources flexibilities were granted through the new personnel systems approved in April 2014 by the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Employment Relations with separate systems for UW-Madison and UW System;

Whereas, the Special Task Force on UW Restructuring and Operational Flexibilities formed by the Wisconsin Legislature in 2012 recommended the following flexibilities:

- Primary responsibility for planning and design of university capital projects be placed with the Board of Regents
- Responsibility for leasing space required by the University be shifted from DOA to the Board of Regents
- The Board of Regents be granted the authority to purchase all necessary materials, supplies, equipment, permanent personal property, miscellaneous capital, contractual services, and all other items of a consumable nature subject to current law bidding and other requirements
- The Board of Regents be granted administrative rulemaking authority in the area of procurement

Whereas, the lack of flexibilities in these areas creates inefficiencies, which require more time and money be spent;

Whereas, the savings from granting these flexibilities would not be immediate, but accrue over an extended period of time;

Therefore be it resolved, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Academic Staff Assembly supports granting the University of Wisconsin System additional operational flexibilities by the Wisconsin Legislature and maintaining the currently approved human resource systems for UW-Madison and UW System.