

## **Academic Staff Assembly Resolution Calling UW System President and Board of Regents to Action**

Whereas, the UW-Madison Academic Staff's value proposition is quantified excellence in Research, Teaching, Outreach and providing the administrative infrastructure that allows the state's largest and most vital economic engine to exist;

Whereas, 7,800 UW-Madison Academic Staff serve the state with 70% of these exclusively dedicated to Research, Teaching and Outreach and 10% to direct student services;

Whereas, the economic value for both the state and the nation of maintaining this university's national status as a top-five research university is unquestionable;

Whereas, the UW-Madison and its affiliated organizations and startup companies contribute over \$15B annually to the Wisconsin economy, support 200,000 Wisconsin jobs and generate more than \$847.5 million in state and local taxes;

Whereas, the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly agrees with the Wisconsin Technology Council that "If the slide in higher education funding effort continues, the academic R&D infrastructure in Wisconsin could deteriorate;"

Whereas, more than 90% of the university's annual \$1.2B research expenditures arose from non-state funded entrepreneurial sources;

Whereas, non-faculty researchers with awards return to the state economy, on average, \$26 in all extramural awards for every \$1.00 the state invests in these researchers;

Whereas, while UW-Madison student enrollment grew by 4% from 2008-2015, state funding for higher education dropped in inflation-adjusted terms by 16.5%;

Whereas, this year, Wisconsin has cut higher education funding by 8.3% which, excluding the shifted funding responsibility for the technical college system, is more than \$600 per student or roughly a 25% per student reduction since 2008;

Whereas, the decline of scholarship, research, teaching and outreach and its associated economic benefits reduces services and opportunities to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin which directly diminishes the real value of citizen's continued investment in the university;

Whereas, affordable tuition, adequate budget, academic freedom, and shared governance are essential to the ongoing quality of the University's educational, scholarly, and outreach missions and fulfillment of these responsibilities has long been guided and enabled by the University's traditions of the Wisconsin Idea, academic freedom and shared governance;

Whereas, these practices enable citizens of Wisconsin and their children to enjoy a university of worldwide renown at unparalleled cost effectiveness and affordability; and

Whereas, lacking even the minimum protections provided the faculty; budget cuts and the erosion of active shared governance have a disproportionately negative impact on UW-Madison Academic Staff;

Therefore be it resolved that UW-Madison Academic Staff call on System President Ray Cross and the Board of Regents to join us and continue together to rededicate ourselves to pursuing those teaching, research, and public service values that unite all Wisconsin citizens; and

Be it further resolved that the Academic Staff Assembly of UW-Madison call on System President Ray Cross, the Board of Regents and the state legislature to recommit to the Wisconsin Idea, respect and advance shared governance in the UW System and work with us to preserve the quality of our university, to improve access, affordability, and educational resources for our students; to increase support for scholarship and its associated economic benefits and to provide greater resources for outreach and valued services to citizens of the State.