Resolution Calling for the Creation and Implementation of a Campus-wide Climate Action Plan

1. Whereas, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has always been a leader in teaching, research, and outreach regarding the conservation of natural resources, environmental protection, and sustainable living patterns;

2. Whereas, UW-Madison has already made significant progress in recent years in conservation and reduction of carbon emissions, has created the Office of Sustainability and the We Conserve Program, and has made significant investments in conservation and energy reduction;

3. Whereas, we recognize that reducing UW-Madison's carbon emissions will require shared effort among academic staff, faculty, university staff, students, and the administration;

4. Whereas, UW-Madison will soon adopt an updated Campus Master Plan that includes many goals regarding sustainability and energy, such as:
   - "Extend our educational mission to Wisconsin and the world with new technology and partnerships." (p. 27)
   - "Promote environmental sustainability through our own campus operations, integrated with research and education." (p. 28)
   - "The master planning process is used to accommodate and direct future growth of the campus in a responsible and efficient manner utilizing funding to assure that facilities development supports the institution's mission of teaching, research and outreach." (p. 30)
   - "We are committed to being responsible stewards of our human, intellectual, cultural, financial, and environmental resources." (p. 14)
   - "It is the policy of the Board of Regents that the following principles shall guide the physical planning and development of UW System institutions and stewardship of physical assets controlled by the Board of Regents…
   - 9. Sustainable design through: …
   - d. High-performance and energy-efficient design;
   - f. Appropriate use of renewable energy." (p. 31)
   - "Demonstrate leadership in environmental sustainability both on- and off-campus." (p. 139)
   - "As we maximize opportunities for generating and using renewable energy, we will continue to reduce our carbon footprint." (p. 17);

5. Whereas, UW-Madison, along with the City of Madison and 10 other municipalities that are home to over 70% of the population of Dane County, was a partner in the federally-funded Capital Region Sustainable Communities, which by consensus in 2013 endorsed

the Framework & Goals of a county-wide, all-sector climate action plan for the municipalities of Dane County;

6. Whereas, hundreds of universities across the country are signatories to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and are preparing or have prepared climate action plans to become carbon neutral by 2050;

7. Whereas, the Chancellors of eight UW System schools have signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (Eau Claire, Green Bay, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, River Falls, Stevens Point, Stout, and Whitewater); and

8. Whereas, development of a campus climate action plan will draw on faculty and staff expertise and further enhance UW-Madison's research, education, and outreach missions.

9. Therefore, be it resolved by the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly that the academic staff endorses and fully supports the goal that UW-Madison should eliminate its contributions to climate disruption by becoming carbon neutral by 2050 or sooner, and that we encourage our shared governance partners to adopt similar goals;

10. Be it further resolved that the Assembly encourages the UW-Madison administration to endorse or adopt the goal that UW-Madison would eliminate its contributions to climate disruption by becoming carbon neutral by 2050 or sooner;

11. Be it further resolved that the Assembly encourages the administration to fund, create, and implement a campus-wide climate action plan with specific and measurable targets and implementation actions to move UW-Madison to become carbon neutral by 2050 or sooner;

12. Be it further resolved that the Assembly recommends that this campus climate action plan:
    - begin with the City of Madison's formally adopted or endorsed climate and energy goals as well as the framework and goals of the forthcoming climate action plan of the Dane County Climate Council;
    - contain procedures for UW-Madison to report progress on climate goals to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment and/or the AASHE STARS (American Association for Sustainability in Higher Education - Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) or other similar system;
    - contain procedures for regular reports to the campus community on progress and actions taken in furtherance of these goals;
    - address adaptation and resilience of campus facilities and processes within the context of a changing climate;

- and (to the maximum extent practicable) coordinate goals and implementation strategies with climate action plans in Dane County and the City of Madison; and

13. Be it further resolved that the Assembly encourages the Chancellor to sign the American Colleges and University Presidents' Climate Commitment as a symbol of UW-Madison's commitment to these goals.