

Resolution Celebrating 125 Years of Sifting and Winnowing

Whereas, the UW Board of Regents unanimously adopted a report on September 18, 1894 that found Professor Richard Ely innocent of charges related to teaching “utopian, impractical or pernicious doctrines”;

Whereas, contained within the report are the words “Whatever may be limitations which trammel inquiry elsewhere, we believe that the great state University of Wisconsin should ever encourage the continual and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found”;

Whereas, these words are memorialized on a plaque on the front of Bascom Hall given by the class of 1910 to the University; and

Whereas, September 18, 2019, marks the 125th anniversary of the sifting and winnowing statement;

Therefore, the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly recognizes this important anniversary of one of the core values of UW-Madison; and

Be it further resolved that the Assembly urges the university and UW System to protect the free speech and academic freedom of faculty, staff and students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.