

**Resolution on Board of Regents Action Regarding Regent Policy Document on Commitment to Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression**

1. Whereas, the UW System Board of Regents passed a revised policy on freedom of expression at its October 2017 meeting that codifies punishment of students for materially and substantially disrupting the free expression of others;
2. Whereas, governance groups were given less than one week to provide feedback on the proposal making it impossible for the Academic Staff Assembly at UW-Madison to take a position;
3. Whereas, the mission statement of UW-Madison asserts “the primary purpose of the University of Wisconsin–Madison is to provide a learning environment in which faculty, staff and students can discover, examine critically, preserve and transmit the knowledge, wisdom and values that will help ensure the survival of this and future generations and improve the quality of life for all.”
4. Whereas, to achieve its mission the University must: “Embody, through its policies and programs, respect for, and commitment to, the ideals of a pluralistic, multiracial, open and democratic society”;
5. Whereas, the Academic Staff Assembly believe that conduct regarding freedom of expression can be translated into teachable experiences that advance student knowledge;
6. Whereas, this policy outlines specific sanctions for students who violate it, not allowing the institution to take advantage of these teachable experiences as part of our educational mission; and
7. Whereas, we fear this policy may stifle these teachable moments, as well as hinder learning both inside and outside the classroom.
8. Therefore, be it resolved that the Academic Staff Assembly does not support the revisions made by the Board of Regents to the Freedom of Expression policy; and
9. Be it further resolved that the Academic Staff Assembly urges the Board of Regents to reconsider the policy and allow individual campuses to address these matters as they see fit.