

(As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 7 February 2011)

PRINCIPLES FOR THE NEW BADGER PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

The University Committee, in dialog with the administration, other governance groups and employee unions, articulated the following principles to guide negotiations with state government regarding the relationship of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to the state of Wisconsin. The chancellor has articulated her New Badger Partnership vision for our university, which would provide flexibility from state constraints in order to enable the institution to manage more effectively decreases in state funding. Details regarding such flexibility, the form it might take or the statutory changes required, are not available at this time and await action by the governor and legislature on the state budget. In the absence of specific details, the University Committee advocates that the Faculty Senate adopt these principles to guide engagement with lawmakers regarding any change in the relationship of the university to the state.

Governance

These principles are critical to maintaining a pre-eminent teaching and research enterprise at UW-Madison, allowing us to retain and enhance the diversity of the university community and to maintain high-quality higher education for the citizens of the state. The following are essential:

- Shared governance, as articulated in Chapter 36.09 of the current state statutes, must be preserved.
- University employees not covered by Chapter 36.09, including represented and non-represented classified staff, have the ability to advise the university administration.
- Academic freedom must be protected.
- Legislation that in any way infringes on the right of university faculty, staff and students to teach or conduct research on topics of their own choosing is unacceptable.
- Terms of faculty employment, including faculty control over hiring and tenure as articulated in Chapter 36.09(4) and Chapter 36.13, must be preserved.
- Terms of academic staff employment, including appointments and procedural guarantees as articulated in Chapter 36.09(4m) and Chapter 36.15, must be preserved.
- Terms of student participation in governance, including consultation with the chancellor on disposition of segregated fees as articulated in Chapter 36.09(5), must be preserved.
- The existing right of university faculty, staff and student employees to be represented by unions must not be infringed.
- All university employees must have the right to due process. Structures for external arbitration and external oversight must be consistent with those articulated in Chapter 230.44 and Chapter 230 Subchapters III and IV.
- Partnership agreements with private entities must protect the intellectual property rights of the university and of university faculty, staff, and students. Such agreements must not infringe on academic freedom.

Finances

These are the core principles of financial flexibility:

- Continued state funding of the state's traditional share of cost-to-continue is essential to the continued existence and success of UW-Madison.
- The university must be allowed to retain money saved, without threat of seizure, for its own purposes.
- Higher education must be affordable and accessible to all the families of Wisconsin. The university must provide need-based financial aid and provide it largely as grants in order that students of modest means in good academic standing may successfully complete their degrees in a timely manner.

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- Employee benefits currently provided by the state must continue to be available to eligible university employees. The university has the right to provide other benefits to any university employee.
- The university will ensure fairness and equity in employment practices and salaries, including, for instance, prevailing wage for construction projects.

Internal University Processes for Deliberation on the New Badger Partnership

Proposals arising from the New Badger Partnership Initiative will be vetted by appropriate university groups. These groups will include, but are not limited to: school/college academic planning councils, University Committee, Faculty Senate, Academic Staff Executive Committee, Academic Staff Assembly, Associated Students of Madison, Council for Non-represented Classified Staff, and employee unions.