

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COURSE MATERIALS
AS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System has, as a matter of policy, defined the instructional materials of its faculty and staff as copyrightable and therefore as the intellectual property of the authors of those materials¹; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System defines copyrightable instructional material as including “books, texts, glossaries, bibliographies, study guides, laboratory materials, syllabi or tests; lectures, musical or dramatic compositions and scripts; films, filmstrips, slides, charts, transparencies and other visual materials; video and audio recordings of presentations, programs or performances; programmed instructional materials and computer programs; computer software; and educational multimedia projects incorporating various copyrighted media formats including, but not limited to, motion media, music, text material, graphics, illustrations, photographs and digital software which are combined into an integrated presentation”²;

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System, as a matter of policy, leaves the distribution of instructional materials at the discretion of the authors of such material³; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the sense of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Senate, which is the representational organization of the university faculty, that instructional materials are the valuable intellectual property of the authors of that material and, as subject to the protections of copyright law, can be distributed only with the permission of the authors of that material;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the interests of advancing higher learning, instructors, as the authors of course materials, are encouraged, as appropriate, to share those instructional materials with others.

¹ Copyrightable Instructions Materials Ownership, Use and Control (G27), I.

² Copyrightable Instructions Materials Ownership, Use and Control (G27), II.A.

³ Copyrightable Instructions Materials Ownership, Use and Control (G27), III.

<http://www.wisconsin.edu/fadmin/gapp/gapp27.htm>