

**UW-Madison Faculty Senate Resolution on Proposed Public Authority**

As approved March 2, 2015

**Whereas** the creation of a public authority for the UW System was introduced in the governor's 2015-2017 biennial budget proposal, and

**Whereas** this model would change UW System from a state agency to a public authority on July 1, 2016, or sooner, and

**Whereas** the proposal would shift important powers from elected members of the legislature to an appointed board, and

**Whereas** potential financial benefits from the proposed flexibilities in areas such as procurement and capital building projects would not be realized for some time, and

**Whereas** critical details of the implementation of public authority remain unknown and there are significant questions that need to be resolved before the plan for a public authority moves forward, and

**Whereas** the implementation of public authority status would require significant time and resources to carry out major administrative restructuring of a large and complex institution with 26 campuses and 180,000 students, and

**Whereas** comparable restructurings elsewhere have been the products of years of thoughtful and deliberative processes yielding agreed-upon sets of goals and mutual responsibilities,

**Be it therefore resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate cannot support a public authority until all governance groups have had the opportunity to vet in an thorough, transparent, and responsible fashion ad detailed implementation plan of a public authority model for UW System, and**

**Be it further resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate recommends that a commission of UW System faculty, student, and staff members and non-UW personnel with financial, budget, and organizational expertise be immediately convened by the Board of Regents and charged with issuing a public report of findings on the viability and implications of a public authority model of operations, before the end of this legislative session.**