

Resolution Calling on President Ray Cross to Reaffirm Commitment to Shared Governance

WHEREAS UW System President Ray Cross has publicly declared his support for shared governance, [promising on March 25, 2015, on the UW–Milwaukee campus to resign his position if he failed to protect shared governance](#);

WHEREAS a history of repeated injuries impelled the UW–Madison Faculty Senate on May 2, 2016, to [declare no confidence](#) in President Cross and the Board of Regents and to call on them to “recommit themselves to the Wisconsin Idea” by “working with us to strengthen the quality of our state universities,” which led to an unprecedented wave of no-confidence votes across the UW System;

WHEREAS on February 1, 2018, Wisconsin Public Radio [reported](#) that President Cross disparaged and intentionally circumvented shared governance in decreeing that the University of Wisconsin System be restructured, having emailed Regent Gerald Whitburn on October 11, 2017, that he was “Getting hammered by the ‘shared governance’ leaders because they weren't involved in the process; however, had they been involved we wouldn't be doing anything!!”;

WHEREAS shared governance is ultimately responsible for implementing President Cross’s top-down decision to break up the UW Colleges and merge them with four-year, comprehensive, and research universities, and to shift the functions of UW–Extension under UW–Madison and central System administration;

WHEREAS shared governance is an essential mechanism to guarantee accountability, transparency, and high quality education, as well as better solutions and speedier implementation through the involvement of relevant stakeholders;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin–Madison hereby demands that President Cross honor his earlier pledge to protect and respect shared governance in all relevant administrative decisions regarding the UW System and its campuses, and that he outline specific policies and practices for including faculty, staff, and students in meaningful shared governance at the System level, in a manner that respects and supports the contributions of all members of the University of Wisconsin System in guiding its decisions.