UW-Milwaukee Faculty of Color Resolution on Proposed Changes to Chapter 36, the UW System Mission, and the Wisconsin Idea

WHEREAS, the Faculty of Color at UWM strongly endorses the full text and values of the UW System Mission Statement and Wisconsin Idea defined in Chapter 36.01 of the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty of Color at UWM holds that Chapter 36 implements the core goals and values of the UW System Mission and the Wisconsin Idea; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty of Color at UWM finds that, in particular, the following subsections of Chapter 36 protect access and promote success for low-income and diverse students at UWM:

36:12 Student discrimination prohibited
36.25 (14) Graduate Student Financial Aid
36.25 (14m) Minority and disadvantaged programs
36.25 (21m) Great Lakes Indian Law Program
36.25 (39) Institute for Excellence in Urban Education
36.25 (49) Academic Increase Grants
36.34 Minority Student Programs
36.43 Accommodation of religious beliefs

WHEREAS, the Faculty of Color at UWM holds that no demonstrative savings is achieved by eliminating the provisions of Chapter 36 for UW System institutions or their students and that the elimination of these provisions may cost the state more due to the inability of the UW System to adequately prepare diverse and low-income students to meet the changing needs of the state’s workforce; and

WHEREAS, the urban focus of UWM has led to a student body where nearly a quarter of them are from underrepresented racial/ethnic communities, and 80% of the graduates remain in Wisconsin as part of its workforce and tax base; and

WHEREAS, the proposed $300 million cut represents a gross mismanagement of Wisconsin tax payer resources, which inevitably leads to tuition hikes that will make a university education inaccessible for many low-income citizens of the state, and result in the lowering of the nationally recognized quality of a degree from any University of Wisconsin campus.

THEREFORE, the Faculty of Color at UWM strongly opposes the proposed $300 million cut to UW System and the proposed elimination of Chapter 36 resulting from the recreation of the UW System as a public authority whose composition, structure, and powers are unknown and will likely jeopardize the durability and goals of the UW System Mission and the Wisconsin Idea, as well as decrease faculty and student diversity and disconnect the institution from the citizens it was intended to serve.

To sign onto this resolution, send an email to foc.resolution@gmail.com.

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