

**UW-MILWAUKEE FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION TO RESCIND SYS 102.6.3
(THE 'LOW PRODUCTIVITY' MONITORING POLICY)**

Whereas the UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate recognizes the importance of regular program review to evaluate the deployment of resources and ensure their most effective use in order to guarantee program quality and achievement of the campus mission and strategic goals; and

Whereas students may consider some programs valuable to complete University General Education requirements, or to support them in valuable learning experiences such as Study Abroad, while not necessarily wishing to major in them; and

Whereas students may consider some programs valuable for minors and as coursework of personal interest while not necessarily wishing to major in them; and

Whereas the list of low-productivity programs across the system identifies languages and programs focusing on social issues as the most likely to be cut; and

Whereas the cognitive aspect of language learning fosters humanistic and cross-cultural understanding and fosters diverse perspectives in an increasingly global society; and

Whereas the American Academy of Arts and Sciences reported last year that Americans' lack of foreign language skills and related cultural competencies is having adverse consequences in business, diplomacy, and civic life; and

Whereas the mission of UW-Milwaukee includes commitment to community-based service and learning, and therefore calls for student understanding of social issues; and

Whereas the proposed SYS 102 Program Productivity Monitoring Policy establishes one metric, the number of graduates over a five-year period, as the sole determiner of a program's value without regard to the campus mission, its strategic goals, the interrelations of programs, the importance of said programs for recruitment and retention, and the value of programs for international students, who pay nearly double in tuition compared to domestic students; and

Whereas there is no sound reason why this one metric needs to be applied and no recognition that the same programs would be demonstrated to be cost-effective by other metrics;

Whereas the proposed SYS 102 Policy mandates closing programs rather than providing flexibility for local campuses to determine the best ways to deploy resources for meeting regional needs; and

Whereas the proposed policy removes final decision making over programs from local campuses and from the shared governance process; and

Whereas, in order to ensure high-quality education, the decision over curriculum is by state statute as well as by prevailing practice placed in the faculty's primary area of responsibility;

Whereas American higher education has flourished under the conditions of institutional autonomy, especially in regard to curriculum; and whereas state statute mandates that the Board of Regents "promote the widest degree of institutional autonomy" (36.09(1)(a)); and

Whereas the University of Wisconsin has been a leader in joint governance as well as in forwarding a model of education, the Wisconsin Idea, in which education, free from partisan attacks, can benefit the citizens of the state;

Whereas so essential was shared governance to establishing and maintaining a high-quality education for the state that, upon the merger of the state's educational systems to create the University of Wisconsin System, the principle was enshrined in Wisconsin State Statute 36.09 ("Responsibilities"); and

Whereas Wis. Stat. 36.09 describes the primary responsibilities as vested in the governance bodies of the Board of Regents, the UW System President, the chancellors, and the faculty in such a way that each is to consult with the others for the good of the UW System and the citizens of the state; and

Whereas Wis. Stat. 36.09(4) maintains that the faculty have primary responsibility over curriculum, academic matters, and faculty personnel matters;

Be it resolved that the proposal of changes Sys 102.6.3 should be withdrawn;

Further, the decision to preserve or to eliminate an academic program should remain at local campuses where mission, strategic goals, interrelations with other programs, student needs, and other factors can be considered and where the primary role of the faculty for academic matters and curriculum can be honored;

Further, any processes required to assess a program should be established by the local institution and, therefore, any "appeal" regarding program decisions, as deemed necessary, should be heard and evaluated by existing faculty governance procedures; and

Finally, UW System should refrain from taking responsibility away from existing faculty governance in local curriculum decisions.