Resolution Demanding UW System President Ray Cross
Protect and Respect Shared Governance

WHEREAS, UW System President Ray Cross has publicly declared his support for shared governance, promising at one point on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus to resign his position if he failed to protect shared governance;

WHEREAS, one of the University of Wisconsin System Administration’s (UWSA) missions is to “facilitate close coordination and cooperation among the UW System institutions;

WHEREAS, President Cross has personally stated on the UWSA website, “one of my primary responsibilities is listening to, and building lasting relationships with, the people and organizations that sustain [the University of Wisconsin System].”

WHEREAS, it has now been publicly disclosed that President Cross disparaged and intentionally circumvented shared governance in decreeing that the University of Wisconsin System be restructured, having emailed Regent Gerald Whitburn 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, President Cross and the UW System administration have failed to follow their missions by discussing and making a decision on the UW Restructure with no consultation between the affected UW institutions;

WHEREAS, shared governance entities are ultimately responsible for implementing UW System President Cross’s hasty, top-down decision that the UW Colleges be broken up and merged with four-year, comprehensive, and research universities;

WHEREAS, shared governance is an essential mechanism to guarantee the accountability, transparency, and high-quality education we have come to expect from the University of Wisconsin System and is legally guaranteed to students in Wisconsin Statute Chapter 36;

WHEREAS, shared governance was instrumental in helping UWM to achieve its R1 status by starting new PhD programs and raising the university’s research profile;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Student Association at UWM supports the student governments whom have recently passed similar resolutions towards Ray Cross;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Association at UWM 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.
THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that the UWM SA encourages other UW institutions’ shared governance leaders to discuss this series of incidents and come to a conclusion of their own, and that the UWM SA will communicate this decision to those shared governance leaders.

Emily Kuester
Student Association President

Date: 3/1/18
AYE: 17
NAY: 1

Legislative History

February 18, 2018 – Introduced by Senator Kossoris. Cosponsored by Senator Heintzkill