Support of Student Shared Governance Groups as Equal Participants in Shared Governance Processes

WHEREAS, on November 9th, 2017, the UW System Board of Regents announced a restructure of the UW system.

WHEREAS, effective July 1st, 2018 UW-Waukesha and UW-Washington County are merging with UW-Milwaukee.

WHEREAS, student shared governance was determined a high priority issue by the UWM Regional Campus Transition Committee Restructuring Team and needs to be approved by July, 1st 2018.

WHEREAS, the Student Association at UWM (hereafter SA) created a merger work group to have student leaders from UW-Waukesha, UW-Washington County, and UW-Milwaukee come together to determine the best course of action for student shared governance in the above-mentioned restructure.

WHEREAS, each student shared governance group expressed a desire to maintain their own autonomy to play a role in their campus decision-making regarding the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests.

WHEREAS, in order to accommodate the maintenance of autonomy in the SA through the restructure, changes to the SA constitution are required; these changes were passed by SA and shall be taken to a student-wide referendum.

WHEREAS, the Higher Learning Commission accreditation process recognizes UW-Waukesha and UW-Washington County as separate campuses within the UW-Milwaukee institution.

WHEREAS, UW-Stevens Point is implementing a similar structure with UW-Marathon County and UW-Marshfield/Wood County.

WHEREAS, SA has the authority to make these changes under State Statute 36.09(5) to which, "The students of each institution or campus subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, the chancellor and the faculty shall be active participants in the immediate governance of and policy development for such institutions. The students of each institution or campus shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance."1

WHEREAS, SA has the authority to make these changes under Regent Policy Document 30-3, "Where students have organized for participation and representation below the institution-wide level (such as colleges, schools, divisions, and departments), the form and procedure for assuring appropriate representation in a unit shall be determined by the students in that unit."2

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; effective July 1st, 2018, when decision-making that involves the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests of the students at the receiving institution of UW-Milwaukee, the student shared governance group for UW-Milwaukee shall be consulted and will appoint students to that shared governance process.

1 http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/36/09/5
THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; effective July 1st, 2018, when decision-making that involves the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests of students at the branch campus formerly known as UW-Waukesha occurs, the student shared governance group for that affected campus shall be consulted and will appoint students to that respective process.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; effective July 1st, 2018, when decision-making that involves the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests of students at the branch campus formerly known as UW-Washington County occurs, the student shared governance group for that affected campus shall be consulted and will appoint students to that respective process.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; effective July 1st, 2018, when decision-making that involves the formulation and review of policies concerning student life, services, and interests affecting all students at the receiving institution of UW-Milwaukee and the branch campuses formerly known as UW-Waukesha and UW-Washington County, the Intercampus Communication Committee shall be consulted and each student shared governance group will appoint students to that shared governance process.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; the Student Association at UWM is interested in continuing to work with Chancellor Mone and his cabinet, as well as the co-chairs of the UWM Regional Campus Transition Committee to work out the details in this resolution to protect student shared governance in the UW Restructure.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; upon passage of this resolution, it be included at the beginning of the student referendum to give students context on the constitution changes.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; upon passage of this resolution it be communicated to Chancellor Mone, UWM Regional Campus Transition co-chairs Ron Perez and Paula Rhyner, UWM Faculty Senate, UWM University Staff Council, UWM Student Affairs Restructure Team Lead James Hill, UWM Governance Restructure Team Lead Kris O’Connor, Student Involvement Director Eric Jessup-Anger, and the Independent Election Commission.

Legislative History

2 https://www.wisconsin.edu/regents/policies/guidelines-for-student-governance/