WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Chancellor Mark Mone addressed a letter to the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Association Senate.

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Association Senate feels it necessary to respond to Chancellor Mark Mone in the form of a letter.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Student Association Senate will send the attached letter in response to the letter received from Chancellor Mark Mone.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this legislation and letter be communicated to the office of Chancellor Mark Mone and the Wisconsin Board of Regents.

Alyssa Molinski
Student Association President

Date

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Dear Chancellor Mone,

We write in response to the February 13th letter to the Student Association Senate. We hope to clear up any confusion still existing about legislation SB1819-022, that has passed and was signed. The resolution is a condemnation of the increases to the segregated fee for the “Student Union Capital Project” from 2017-2018. The Student Association does not take issue with the fee itself, but with the lack of communication between the administration and the Senate Finance Committee regarding the fee. First, we would like to stress the importance of our objective related to the legislation. This legislation was a condemnation of the increases to the segregated fee during the FY17 and FY18.

In the near future, Student Association will be drafting legislation to be considered during the senate meeting on March 10th. This legislation, if passed, will reaffirm our commitment to funding new construction and/or revitalization of the Student Union.

Student Association Senate would also like to clear up confusion relating to our preparedness on hearing this matter. Before the vote, we kindly asked Richard Thomas, former SA Vice President Evan Braun, Kelly Haag, Krystle Anderson, and Geoff Hurtado to elaborate on the details of the fee and how it got to where it is today. Each of them provided an interesting perspective, but in the end, did not provide any substantial evidence disproving our claims. Furthermore, the Senate Finance Committee raised questions related to the fee weeks in advance and the only definitive answer they received was that “the increases to the fee were the purview of the Chancellor and not subject to SA approval.” The Student Association was attentive throughout the entire process and prepared to vote on this legislation. Based on the information compiled, the Student Association Senate’s position stands firm.

We, the members of the Student Association Senate, share your concerns about the need for repairs and maintenance in the Union. Given its prominent role in student life, the Union remains a primary concern of the Student Association Senate. We hope to move forward together with clear and open communication between the Student Association and the administration to find a solution to the Union’s current state. We hope to reevaluate the current segregated fee together with administration and to forge new processes so that the
Student Association and administration can work closer together for the betterment of the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee student body.

Best regards,

University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
Student Association Senate