

Resolution of the UW-Madison Faculty Senate
Approved unanimously February 2, 2015

The UW-Madison faculty, together with colleagues throughout the UW System, is dedicated to serving the people of Wisconsin and the nation through teaching, research, and outreach. In keeping with the mission and ideals of public higher education, we reaffirm our continuing commitment to providing access to a high-quality education for all Wisconsin residents irrespective of financial means, to advancing the state of human knowledge, and to promoting economic growth and the competitiveness of Wisconsin's industries and businesses. We believe that Wisconsin is best served by sustaining UW-Madison as a top international university that attracts and retains the best and brightest minds for our state, including students, staff, faculty, and alumni.

Whereas UW-Madison has already absorbed more than an 11% drop in the purchasing power of general purpose state support since 2010 (dollars that together with tuition support much of our educational mission), and

Whereas the educational mission of the university system, supporting the teaching and learning of our 180,000 students, is funded primarily by state general purpose revenue and tuition, and

Whereas the proposed \$300 million cut represents a further 13% reduction in the system's state-financed operating budget, and

Whereas a major reduction in state support would diminish the quality, breadth, and access to education for Wisconsin residents, and

Whereas any operational flexibilities that might be granted through changes in the relationship of the UW System to the state will take time and resources and would allow very few efficiencies this biennium, and

Whereas implementing these budget cuts would pose significant challenges for our administrative leadership, limit our capacity to retain our world-class faculty, and reduce our effectiveness in meeting the needs of students,

Be it therefore resolved that we, the UW-Madison Faculty Senate, express our strong opposition to the proposed \$300 million cut to the UW System budget and our deep concern that such a cut will unnecessarily impair our university and our state.