

Communication from an Official Governance Unit

UW-Platteville Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding SB 21: Proposed Budget Reduction,
Authority Creation, and Alteration of the UW-System Mission Statement

Approved 10 February 2015

Whereas the UW-Platteville Faculty Senate is gravely concerned about the enormous proposed budget cut of 300 million dollars to the UW System, creation of a Public Authority for the UW System without full vetting, and the “drafting error” unilaterally striking the Wisconsin Idea from the UW System Mission Statement; and

Whereas SB 21 would have a highly significant and negative impact on the ability of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville to carry out our mission and serve the citizens of Wisconsin, the affordability of higher education in the State of Wisconsin, and the economic health of Southwest Wisconsin:

Be it resolved that the UW-Platteville Faculty Senate fully supports and embraces the Wisconsin Idea as defined in the University of Wisconsin System Mission Statement and vehemently opposes its alteration or removal without representation in any such process in the spirit of shared governance; and

Be it resolved that the UW-Platteville Faculty Senate is steadfastly opposed to the further reduction of support from the State of Wisconsin in any amount, including the 300 million dollars proposed in SB 21, and the continued hindrance such budget cuts pose to the ability of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and the University of Wisconsin System to forward its mission; and

Be it resolved that the UW-Platteville Faculty Senate joins its voice in the shared governance of the UW-System with our fellow senates in calling for an open process to analyze the proposed public authority before such a model is accepted and enacted. Universities operate on research, reason, and the free exchange of ideas. Such a process is necessary and must include full representation across system faculty, staff, students, and administration. The key tenets of Chapter 36, which enshrines shared governance and academic freedom into state law, must be preserved. Shared governance and tenure are the bedrock of a vibrant, thriving university system and are non-negotiable.