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Faculty Senate Resolution Regarding 2015-2017 Budget Proposal

The University of Wisconsin-Stout is dedicated to serving the people of Wisconsin. We are committed to the Wisconsin Idea, and we want to work together with the governor and the legislators to see it thrive. The faculty of UW-Stout fosters the creation and dissemination of critical knowledge that contributes to the development of a strong, diverse work force, producing graduates who promote the economy of the state and the well-being of all its people. As a polytechnic university with a special mission, we are uniquely positioned to serve the needs of the state in the twenty-first century.

Our state has a strong heritage of supporting high quality education, the cornerstone of a successful democracy. The proposed 300 million dollar cut to the UW System would have an adverse effect on its ability to provide an affordable, high-quality education for its students. The cuts would lead to an even higher attrition of skilled faculty who are already paid salaries well below market value. Growth of new programs will be slowed, and the operations of existing programs will suffer.

Further, the governor's proposal to convert the UW System into a public authority represents a significant departure from the current model and should not be adopted without careful evaluation. Input from a broad range of constituents, including students, faculty, staff, and community stakeholders is necessary to maintain transparency and contribute to an informed decision-making process. It is essential that structures be retained to ensure that shared governance, autonomy, and commitment to the Wisconsin Idea are preserved.

We are gravely concerned about the weakening of our public education system through a continued decrease in state investment. Access to quality education is a value that has served Wisconsin well, and we believe that continued access for all eligible individuals is in the best interest of our communities, state, and nation.

The legislature of the State of Wisconsin has the authority and responsibility to approve a budget that provides for the public good and long-term economic health of the state. The Wisconsin State Legislature can mitigate the impact of these proposed cuts, which are the highest in a single biennium ever faced by the UW System.

Therefore, the Faculty Senate of UW-Stout calls upon the Wisconsin Legislature to substantially reduce the cuts to the University of Wisconsin system that have been proposed in the 2015-2017 biennium budget.

