

Resolution in Response to the Public Authority Proposal for UW System

Whereas the public authority proposal for the UW System was introduced in the 2015-17 biennial budget bill;

Whereas this model would shift UW System from a state agency to a public authority;
Whereas a similar model was proposed for UW-Madison in 2011 and the Academic Staff Assembly did not take a position on that proposal;

Whereas the proposal shifts power from elected members of the legislature to an appointed board;

Whereas the proposed structure may provide flexibilities mainly in the areas of procurement and capital building projects to UW System which could result in additional expenditures or cost savings;

Whereas it has been proposed the shift to a public authority model would be implemented July 1, 2016 or sooner;

Whereas comparable restructurings elsewhere have been the result of years of thoughtful and deliberative processes yielding agreed-upon sets of goals and mutual responsibilities; and

Whereas there are significant questions including but not limited to accountability, efficiency, costs and quality;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly cannot support the UW System Public Authority at this time;

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that before any changes to the governance or management of UW System are considered, the Board of Regents and the Legislature need to resolve these significant questions and report to the 26 campuses, UW System, the Legislature and the Governor.

Therefore Be It Further Resolved that the UW-Madison Academic Staff Assembly supports the creation of a blue ribbon, citizen commission, similar to the 1968 Commission on Education (commonly called the Kellett Commission), to study the current UW System, the proposed UW System public authority, and other options and submit a report to the governor, legislature, and UW System Board of Regents.