

UW-Madison Faculty Senate Resolution on Proposed Public Authority
Approved March 2, 2015

Whereas the creation of a public authority for the UW System was introduced in the governor's 2015-2017 biennial budget proposal, and

Whereas this model would change UW System from a state agency to a public authority on July 1, 2016, or sooner, and

Whereas the proposal would shift important powers from elected members of the legislature to an appointed board, and

Whereas potential financial benefits from the proposed flexibilities in areas such as procurement and capital building projects would not be realized for some time, and

Whereas critical details of the implementation of public authority remain unknown and there are significant questions that need to be resolved before the plan for a public authority moves forward, and

Whereas the implementation of public authority status would require significant time and resources to carry out major administrative restructuring of a large and complex institution with 26 campuses and 180,000 students, and

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

Be it therefore resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate cannot support a public authority until all governance groups have had the opportunity to vet in a thorough, transparent, and responsible fashion a detailed implementation plan of a public authority model for UW System, and

Be it further resolved that the UW-Madison Faculty Senate recommends that a commission of UW System faculty, student, and staff members and non-UW personnel with financial, budget, and organizational expertise be immediately convened by the Board of Regents and charged with issuing a public report of findings on the viability and implications of a public authority model of operations, before the end of this legislative session.