

Communication from an Official Governance Unit
UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate Resolutions
Approved June 2, 2015

Resolution to the UW-System Board of Regents for its June 4-5th meeting at UWM

The Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) strongly endorses the “Statement by PROFS in response to JFC action on the UW System Budget” (see www.profs.wisc.edu). By its actions, the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) sends a chilling message to residents of the state of Wisconsin that it is not important for our collective future to support a strong public University in Milwaukee. This view cannot be further from the truth. The actions of the JFC critically undercut the academic and fiscal viability of UWM and other campuses in the UW-System and, as a result, will compromise the future for Wisconsin residents in the rapidly evolving, knowledge-based world of the 21st century.

For these reasons, the Senate calls upon the Board of Regents and UW-System officials to publicly condemn the huge budget cuts to the System and the accompanying, unprecedented attack on tenure, indefinite status for staff, and shared governance by the JFC. We further call upon the Board of Regents and UW-System to work with us and the public to reverse these actions during full legislative body deliberations on the budget.

Resolution to Chancellor Mark Mone

The UWM Faculty Senate urges Chancellor Mone to use his time before the BOR at its coming meeting in Milwaukee to present an unvarnished picture of the great harm that UWM faces as a result of the JFC actions on the biennial budget. In particular:

- The assault on tenure (removal from Chapter 36 coupled with new powers to lay off tenured faculty which is unique across the country) will cause extraordinary long-term damage to the quality of the faculty;
- The accompanying attack on staff access to indefinite status likewise undermines the opportunity to build and keep an outstanding group of professional staff;
- The undermining of shared governance, which has been fundamental to the strong reputation and academic quality of the UW-System will deprive UWM of the collective knowledge base and working relationship between administration and faculty needed to sustain UWM's development into a first rate research university; and
- The enormous budget cut will strangle the professed aim and desire of the region for UWM to take a leadership role in enhancing its economic and social viability.

The Senate further calls upon Chancellor Mone to make the case to the Board of Regents that now is the time for the UW-System, Board of Regents, and campuses to unequivocally state that faculty, staff, and student rights will continue unchanged, and to make the reasoned case to legislators and the public why this must be so.