College of Engineering Industrial Advisory Board
Resolution in support of the New Badger Partnership

For more than one and one-half centuries, the University of Wisconsin-Madison has had a significant positive impact on the culture and economy in Wisconsin. While UW-Madison is a global leader among public research universities, it faces major financial challenges, including a proposed $125 million reduction in state tax support over the next two years.

In response to continued reductions of state funding for UW-Madison, Chancellor Martin has advanced the New Badger Partnership, a proposal that develops a new business model for UW-Madison. We applaud Chancellor Martin for her bold vision and the courage to promote this needed change.

The governor’s proposed budget bill, currently under consideration by the legislature, includes the creation of a new public authority for UW-Madison that would enable UW-Madison to achieve the flexibilities articulated in the New Badger Partnership.

UW-Madison is in competition with other top academic institutions for the best and brightest faculty and students. Decreasing state support puts the university at a competitive disadvantage in this regard. The New Badger Partnership gives UW-Madison the flexibility to invest available resources where they are most needed, while reducing constraints that currently keep us from responding quickly to emerging opportunities.

Under this proposal, the name and branding of the University of Wisconsin institutions will remain intact. In addition, we believe that granting the University of Wisconsin-Madison public authority will facilitate increased cooperation with other University of Wisconsin institutions, thus making the collective group stronger. Under the current proposal, increased state funding will be available to the other University of Wisconsin institutions than would normally occur. The financial efficiencies made possible by public authority status will expand the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s ability to advance the Wisconsin Idea. We fully support extending these flexibilities to the other state institutions when they seek it.
We believe a healthy UW-Madison leads to a healthy state of Wisconsin. As such, the Industrial Advisory Board of the College Of Engineering expresses its unanimous support for the New Badger Partnership and the establishment of a new public authority for UW-Madison.

Mr. Jan R. Acker
Mr. Richard L. Antoine
Ms. Cynthia Bachmann
Mr. William C. Beckman
Mr. John E. Berndt
Dr. Vincent S. Chan
Ms. Kim K. Christopher
Ms. Donna J. Fairbanks
Dr. R. Fenton-May
Mr. Thomas F. Gunkel
Mr. Michael J. Harsh
Dr. Ian M. Hau
Mr. Mark A. Henning
Mr. Todd P. Kelsey
Mr. James R. Meister
Mr. Tom Still

Resolved, May 4, 2011