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 around the world 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 more efficiently invest available resources where they are most needed, reducing constraints that currently keep us from responding quickly to emerging opportunities and effectively planning for the future.

Specifically to the School of Veterinary Medicine and its UW Veterinary Care operations, the benefits of the flexibilities in the New Badger Partnership include:

- Control over its revenue, including program revenue earned by the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH), which will allow more effective and efficient management of its resources.
- Better alignment of the human resources structure with the unique needs of a major research enterprise and program-revenue entities such as the VMTH.
- Improved purchasing authority which will allow the School and hospital to negotiate more advantageous prices for a variety of materials and /or take advantage of contracts negotiated by consortia dedicated to the unique needs of major research universities.
- Campus management of some facilities and construction projects, saving the school money and better aligning our costs with those in the private sector.

We believe a healthy UW-Madison leads to a healthy state of Wisconsin. As such, the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine Board of Visitors expresses its support for the New Badger Partnership and the establishment of a new public authority for UW-Madison.

Resolved, April 29, 2011