

Resolution on UW System Omnibus Motion #521

Whereas, the UW System Omnibus Motion #521 passed by the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance on May 29, 2015, drastically alters faculty tenure, shared governance and indefinite appointments for academic staff for the University of Wisconsin System;

Whereas, these changes were made without consultation with stakeholders;

Whereas, faculty tenure, shared governance, and indefinite appointments for academic staff are important to UW System for recruitment, retention, morale and stability of its workforce, as well as the System's national and international standing;

Whereas, academic freedom afforded to faculty through tenure allows the pursuit of truth and knowledge, and inquiry to be unencumbered by fear of retaliation;

Whereas, academic staff have significant responsibilities for instruction, research, and service; they should be afforded the academic freedoms of pursuing truth, knowledge and inquiry unencumbered by fear of retaliation;

Whereas, institutional policymaking through shared governance increases productivity and morale of staff and faculty; and

Whereas, indefinite appointments are a zero-cost tool that can be used and approved by Chancellors to recruit and retain excellent academic staff;

Therefore be it resolved, the Academic Staff Assembly of the University of Wisconsin-Madison calls on the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance to strike Items 12 and 34-40 in the UW System Omnibus Motion #521; and

Therefore be it further resolved, the Academic Staff Assembly of the University of Wisconsin-Madison calls on UW System President Ray Cross, the Board of Regents, and Chancellor Rebecca Blank to use all means at their disposal to call on the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance to strike Items 12 and 34-40 in the UW System Omnibus Motion #521.