

Adopted unanimously on October 4, 2007.

**Board of Regents
Resolution re UW System 2007-09 Budget**

WHEREAS, the cost of operating two doctoral universities, 11 comprehensive universities, 13 freshman-sophomore UW Colleges, and 72 county Extension offices has already increased due to normal inflationary factors, and the absence of a 2007-09 operating budget leaves the University of Wisconsin System without adequate resources to cover higher operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the UW System operates and maintains more than 60 million square feet of facilities, and the absence of a 2007-09 capital budget leaves the state's public university without necessary funds for major maintenance projects;

WHEREAS, continuing to cut the UW by refusing to fund annual inflationary costs will only accelerate Wisconsin's slipping further behind states like Minnesota, which now has advanced 7 points ahead of Wisconsin in the percentage of state residents with baccalaureate degrees, and \$4,000 ahead in per-capita income; and

WHEREAS, per-student state support in Wisconsin is already \$1,200 below the national average for four-year universities, and the Board of Regents is committed to slipping no further behind peer states in terms of educational quality and affordable access; and

WHEREAS, the shortfall in state funding created by an ongoing appropriation in 2007-08 is equivalent to the amount of state support for 6,700 full-time equivalent undergraduate students; and

WHEREAS, the shortfall in state funding created by an ongoing appropriation in 2007-08 would force the Board of Regents to choose from among a set of unacceptable alternatives: shrinking enrollments, reducing class sections and thereby extending time to degree, and a tuition surcharge/"tax" on top of the 5.5 percent tuition increase already approved for the academic year further burdening students from low and moderate income families;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Regents, echoing the call of students, alumni, business leaders, legislators, UW faculty and staff, and statewide media outlets, calls on the State to fund the UW System's normal inflationary costs and make a modest investment in the Growth Agenda for Wisconsin, which will increase seats on UW campuses for Wisconsin students, and ramp up research and development efforts to create and support knowledge economy jobs for our children and grandchildren.

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