

# Reaffirming Commitment to Freedom of Expression

July 7, 2017

University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents

## Affirming the Board of Regents' Commitment to Freedom of Expression

Resolution 10906    WHEREAS it is critical to the mission of the University of Wisconsin System and the Wisconsin Idea that different and varied viewpoints are shared and examined; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents and the UW System are committed to freedom of expression and ensuring every voice on every campus is heard and respected; and

WHEREAS the Board of Regents has demonstrated its strong support of the freedom of expression, with the adoption of Resolution 10600 in December 2015, which addressed and emphasized the Board's commitment to freedom of expression and to providing all members of the university community the broadest possible latitude to explore ideas and to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn; and

WHEREAS in December 2015, the Board of Regents also affirmed each institution in the University of Wisconsin System "has a solemn responsibility not only to promote lively and fearless exploration, deliberation, and debate of ideas, but also to protect those freedoms when others attempt to restrict them;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents and the University of Wisconsin System are committed to honoring freedom of speech and expression as the System reviews existing policies to ensure each of our campuses supports and maintains an environment where civil discussions can occur as students learn, study, and prepare for their futures.