

Resolution on Political Interference in the governance of the UW System

Approved by ASA on 4/13/2022

WHEREAS a basic tenet of every purpose of the UW System is the search for truth.

WHEREAS the various missions of each UW System institution can only be carried out when free to make autonomous decisions according to its own processes, priorities, and goals around student education, support of faculty and staff, and service to the community;

WHEREAS the ability of institutions to pursue that mission is fundamentally undermined when political agendas and partisan commitments are imposed on System campuses because this leads to curtailed learning opportunities for students, diminished investment in the development of Wisconsin's citizenry, limited autonomy to pursue effective solutions to campus-level challenges, and other harmful outcomes;

WHEREAS a recent instance of political interference resulted in the resignation of UW-Whitewater's Chancellor and that has harmed UW-Whitewater and the UW System;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Staff Assembly opposes in the strongest terms all forms of political interference in the UW System;

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the Academic Staff Assembly remains committed to supporting the UW System Board of Regents as they fully enact their statutory obligation under WI 36.09(1)(a) to "promote the widest degree of institutional autonomy within the controlling limits of system-wide policies and priorities established by the board" by shielding each institution within the UW System from political interference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Academic Staff Assembly requests that the UW System Interim President and the Governor of Wisconsin also support the UW System Board of Regents in fulfilling their obligations under WI 36.09(1)(a) in order to allow faculty, staff, and students the ability to pursue knowledge and truth.

Action Date	4/13/2022			
Action	Approved			
Vote Detail	Ayes- 12	Nays- 0	Abstentions- 1	Other- 3 absent