WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin was founded by the Wisconsin State Constitution in 1848; and

WHEREAS, in 1911 the state legislature created other public colleges, eventually becoming the Wisconsin State Colleges in 1951 and Wisconsin State Universities in 1964; and

WHEREAS, these two entities competed for private, state and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, this competition was found to be costly for the state of Wisconsin and its taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the separate bureaucracies were found to be inefficient; and

WHEREAS, in 1971 the state legislature joined these two systems in a bipartisan fashion into one University of Wisconsin System, being finalized in 1974; and

WHEREAS, this conjoined statute included the shared governance powers that faculty, academic staff, and students now enjoy; and
WHEREAS, the Chancellor of UW-Madison, Biddy Martin, is now proposing the separation of UW-Madison from the remainder of the UW System; and

WHEREAS, this proposal is expected to be included in the Governor’s proposed biennium budget; and

WHEREAS, the biennium budget is expected to be completed in the next few months; and

WHEREAS, this timeline does not permit the careful study of the severe ramifications of separating UW-Madison from the University of Wisconsin System; and

WHEREAS, separating the two undoes decades of work done within the UW Systems; and

WHEREAS, the separation would require the rewriting of state statute and subject the shared governance statute to a direct review; and

WHEREAS, the separation could restore the competition between state agencies, costing more to the state taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the separation would undo the current UW System, potentially removing all current Regent policies and procedures which regulate and protect the shared governance and due process rights of students; and

WHEREAS, while these policies may come back eventually under the new system, in the interim they may be ignored; and
WHEREAS, this would include the erasure of Regent Policy 30-4 which establishes the funding source to United Council of UW Students, the statewide student association; and

WHEREAS, UW-Madison would suffer as it would no longer have the legislative support of representatives who are in other UW’s districts; and

WHEREAS, the other campuses would suffer for no longer being associated with the prestige of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and

WHEREAS, this could potentially affect transfer policies between UW Schools which is currently regulated by UW System; and

WHEREAS, the seeking of flexibilities within UW System is prudent, seeking to break it apart is not; and

WHEREAS, the President of the UW System has already called publicly for flexibilities for member campuses, making separation unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, the duly-elected student board of United Council, the statewide student association, has voted to condemn the split up of the UW System; and

WHEREAS, even if the separation of the University of Wisconsin-Madison had merit, it should only come with much
discussion and study, not through a four month biennium budget process;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, as the statutory representatives of over 11,000 students, sternly opposes the proposal to split UW-Madison from the UW System;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls for the removal of the proposal from the state’s biennium budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate urges all Chancellors, the Board of Regents, and the UW System to oppose this split; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate urges United Council staff to lobby against this proposal at the State Capitol; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls on all other UW student governments to pass legislation against this measure and forward it to state government officials that represent their campus, as well as members of the Joint Committee on Finance, the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee and the Senate Agriculture, Forestry, and Higher Education Committee; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Jambrek transmit copies of this resolution to all UW Chancellors and Interim Chancellors; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Brian Carlisle, Dean of Students; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor, Budget and Finance; Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Mike Rindo, Executive Director, University Communication; all UW Student Representatives; Dr. Kevin Reilly, UW System President; Charles Pruitt, UW System Board of Regents President; Nicole Juan, Executive Director, United Council; Michael Moscicke, Government Relations Director, United Council; Erika Wolf, Advocacy Field Organizer, United Council; Todd Nordgren, Field Director, United Council; Kirk Cychosz, President, United Council; Janna Caspersen, Vice President, United Council; Maxwell Love, Secretary, United Council; Scott Walker, Governor of Wisconsin; Representative Warren Petryk; Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Alberta Darling; Senator Luther Olsen; Senator Sheila Harsdorf; Senator Joe Leibham; Senator Glenn Grothman; Senator Randy Hopper; Senator Lena Taylor; Senator Robert Jauch; Representative Robin Vos; Representative Dan Meyer; Representative Dan LeMahieu; Representative John Nygren; Representative Pat Strachota; Representative Joel Kleefisch; Representative Tamara Grigsby;
Representative Jennifer Shilling; Senator Dan Kapanke; Representative Steve Nass; Representative Dean Knudson; Representative Joan Ballweg; Representative Donald Pridemore; Representative Daniel Knodl; Representative Paul Farrow; Representative Evan Wynn; Representative Barbara Toles; Representative Terese Berceau; Representative Louis Molepske, Jr.; Representative Gordon Hintz; Senator Neal Kedzie; Senator Terry Moulton, Senator Dave Hansen; Senator Jim Holperin; and Representative Kathy Bernier.

SUBMITTED BY:
Dylan Jambrek, Student Body President
Phillip Rynish, Student Body Vice President
Ben Krall, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director
and On-Campus Senator
Chrissy Duszynski, Student Services Commission Director
and Off-Campus Senator
James Kust, Off-Campus Senator
Paydon Miller, Off-Campus Senator
Patrick Martin, Off-Campus Senator
Trevor Goyette, On-Campus Senator
February 28, 2011