To: The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, Michael J. Falbo, Regent President

Whereas
The Board of Regents needs urgently to assure faculty and staff that current policies and procedures protecting and implementing traditional faculty tenure, employee benefits, and shared governance of University of Wisconsin System campuses (“current policies”) will continue even if the university becomes a public authority as proposed in Governor Walker’s 2015-2017 Executive Budget,

Whereas
Authority for said current policies comes from Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin Statutes, which may not apply to the University of Wisconsin System if it becomes a public authority,

Whereas
Said current policies are bedrock principles of the University of Wisconsin System, upon which many talented professionals have joined together and built our university system into a national and international leader in education and research, a university system of which our graduates and the citizens of Wisconsin are justly proud and which provides vital, lasting benefits to the people and economy of the State of Wisconsin,

Whereas
In proposing public authority status, the proposed executive budget dramatically and fundamentally throws in question the University of Wisconsin System’s commitment to said current policies and other commitments to current and prospective students, faculty, and staff,

Whereas
In the very competitive marketplace which is higher education, said current policies are critical to providing quality higher education for Wisconsin students and are essential expectations for employment of university faculty and staff,

Whereas
The uncertainty created by the proposed executive budget regarding said current policies demonstrably is already directly hurting the University of Wisconsin System’s ability to keep and recruit high quality faculty and staff at University of Wisconsin System campuses, and

Whereas
The Board of Regents can significantly reduce the ongoing damage and begin restoring the University of Wisconsin System’s competitiveness by immediately affirming continuation of said current policies and by writing and approving new policies, consistent with said current policies, to be applied if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority,

Now, Therefore
We, the leaders of faculty governance groups representing the following campuses of the University of Wisconsin System, hereby request the Board of Regents urgently act as follows:

• clearly and urgently affirm current policies protecting and implementing traditional faculty tenure, employee benefits, and shared governance to continue even if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority, and

• promptly write and approve policies to accomplish these goals if the University of Wisconsin System becomes a public authority.

Endorsed by:
[Propose to convert this to alphabetical listing by campus name prior to transmittal]
Brad Seebach, Chair, and the UW-La Crosse Faculty Senate Executive Committee
Mark D. Schwartz, Chair, along with the entire UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate Executive (University) Committee
[...others to be added here as declared]