RESOLUTION:

Whereas, the academic staff of the University of Wisconsin System do not currently enjoy, under statute, the right to engage in collective bargaining;

And whereas that right is enjoyed by other professional employees of the State of Wisconsin;

And whereas a bill before the most recently adjourned session of the state legislature, Senate Bill 132, would have given the academic staff at the various campuses of the University of Wisconsin System the right to engage in collective bargaining;

And whereas a recent survey of academic staff, conducted by the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee's Economic Benefits Committee, revealed that more than three of every four responding academic staff members favored passage of Senate Bill 132;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee requests that the Senate and General Assembly of the State of Wisconsin enact legislation that will grant to the academic staff of the campuses of the University of Wisconsin System the right to engage in collective bargaining;

Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Regents and the President of the University of Wisconsin System, and to the Office of the Governor and members of the Senate and General Assembly of the State of Wisconsin.

RATIONALE:

Earlier this semester the Faculty Senate passed a resolution asking the legislature to grant faculty and academic staff in the UW system the right to engage in collective bargaining. That resolution was brought back to the Senate, which approved a revised version that omitted academic staff. That revised version has since been forwarded to Madison. It has become clear from subsequent conversations, however, that some Senators were confused about the final vote on the revised resolution. For one thing, the academic staff never stated that it is inappropriate for the faculty to pass a resolution stating that the faculty think that the legislature should grant academic staff, as well as faculty, the right in question. The Academic Staff Committee, in fact, has now stated that it does not object to the inclusion of academic staff in the current resolution. By passing it the faculty will simply say that they believe both categories of employees should have the right to engage in collective bargaining.

Faculty Senator Andrew Martin
The Academic Staff Senate has voted, “yes” to the following:

The Academic Staff Committee has been asked by members of the University Committee/Faculty Senate whether “academic staff” would object to being included in a resolution which would ultimately be sent to the state legislature to allow for the opportunity to participate in collective bargaining. While such endorsement would not automatically give faculty and academic staff collective bargaining rights, it would afford the groups the right to formally engage in discussion and debate all the issues.

The Academic Staff Committee is reluctant to formerly endorse the resolution without appropriate discussion and input from the Academic Staff Senate. However, we have been asked to respond regarding academic staff inclusion in the resolution, according to a time line which does not afford us time to meet formerly to discuss the issue. The time line is based upon the meeting schedule of the codification committee and the Faculty Senate’s time line to forward the resolution.

Therefore, rather than “endorse” the resolution, we are recommending the use of the phrase “does not object to ‘academic staff’ being included in the Senate Resolution which would seek that legislation be enacted affording faculty and academic staff the right to engage in collective bargaining.”

The Academic Staff Committee will act on behalf of the Academic Staff Senate regarding this resolution. We are asking you to respond whether or not you object to such a statement being included in the Faculty Resolution. It is important to note that responding favorably to this does not necessarily endorse or support collective bargaining for academic staff, but rather provides a unified voice (UWM faculty and academic staff) which supports the “right” to engage in the discussion on this campus.

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