Resolution in Opposition to the Proposed Constitutional Amendment
Regarding the Definition of Marriage

Whereas, both branches of the state of Wisconsin Legislature, the assembly and the senate, have approved a joint resolution to amend the state’s constitution by creating a new section 13 of article XIII with the following language:

*Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state.*

And, whereas such legislation would further intolerance and thus have significant and far-reaching societal consequences,

And, whereas current federal, state, and university legislation broadly and specifically prohibit both harassment and discrimination,

And, whereas the recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty and staff is predicated on an inclusive climate that supports all individuals,

And, whereas such legislation is inconsistent with the faculty’s values and commitment to provide a broad and contemporary education to its students,

Be it therefore resolved that

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty Senate stands in opposition to the recently passed Wisconsin Legislature’s joint resolution supporting the above quoted constitutional amendment in that by narrowly defining marriage and denying “legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals” in the state, the joint resolution represents a signature and dangerous erosion of harassment and discrimination protections.

Adopted by the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on 21 October 2004.

Rationale

The UWM University Committee has reviewed all elements of the UWS “Inclusivity Initiative” and believes that it is in the best interest of UWM to fully support this resolution. It speaks to a commitment that we all share for both equity and diversity, both of which directly impact the quality and retention of faculty and staff that support the educational and research mission of UWM. Therefore, the UC fully recommends that the Faculty Senate support this resolution.

The UWM University Committee

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