RESOLUTION FROM THE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE REGARDING FURLOUGHS OF NON-STATE-FUNDED EMPLOYEES

Resolution

WHEREAS furloughs of federally funded university employees exacerbate the state budget problems through a reduction in state income tax revenue; and

WHEREAS furloughs of federally funded university employees unnecessarily harm the university’s research and service missions and damage the university’s reputation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate strongly supports the Smart Furlough Bill currently pending in the Wisconsin legislature.

Rationale

1. Research programs at UW-Milwaukee cover a wide range of fundamental and applied problems that affect our local and global communities. Federal taxpayers have a right to expect a timely best effort from funded UW-Milwaukee research teams.

2. Furloughs of research personnel violate the spirit of Federal grants and contracts that provide millions of dollars of research funding. Research staff, faculty, and especially principal investigators committed to a best effort when these funds were accepted by UW-Milwaukee. Furthermore, research funding is very competitive and research funding decisions are based in part on the past performance of researchers. Therefore, furloughing research personnel is in direct opposition to our goal of becoming a premier research institution.

3. The University of California, in a state with worse budget problems than Wisconsin, exempted federally funded university employees from furloughs.

4. Wisconsin state taxpayers will need to make up the lost revenue from income taxes that will not be collected due to furloughs of federally funded employees. This makes little sense in a time of economic distress.

5. The Smart Furlough Bill proposed by Rep. Kelda Helen Roys would exempt from furloughs those positions (or portions thereof) that are not funded by state dollars.

University Committee Members 2009-10
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