Resolution

of the

UW-Milwaukee Faculty

(Issued on behalf of the UW-Milwaukee Faculty Senate by the University Committee)

June 10, 2011

Whereas, on Friday, June 3, 2011, the Wisconsin Legislature’s Joint Finance Committee passed motion 489 that contains language eliminating WiscNet as a department or office within the UW-Madison Department of Information Technology and removing $1.4 million in funding for WiscNet for 2011-13; and

Whereas, WiscNet provides vital broadband network access to all public institutions of higher education including University of Wisconsin System campuses, Wisconsin technical colleges, many private colleges and universities, as well as 95% of public libraries and 80% of school districts throughout the State of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, elimination of WiscNet will force these educational institutions to seek internet services from private telecommunications providers. Thus, all schools and public libraries could see a significant increase in average costs greater than current costs through WiscNet; and

Whereas, Wisconsin taxpayers benefit from millions of dollars in savings through the services WiscNet provides to these educational institutions; and

Whereas, WiscNet embodies the “Wisconsin Idea” and has fostered collaboration between higher education, K-12 education and public libraries for the past 16 years that will disappear; and

Whereas, motion 489 would undermine the ability of UW-Milwaukee faculty and staff members to receive grants and conduct their research, teaching, and service obligations; therefore,

Be it resolved that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty request that the Legislature alter the telecommunication provisions of Joint Finance Motion 489, specifically removing items 23 through 26.

Be it further resolved, that the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Faculty request that the Legislature restore WiscNet funding so this cost-effective internet service for all Wisconsin institutions of higher education, K-12 schools, and public libraries remains viable.

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee University Committee

(Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate)

Dist. Prof. Mark D. Schwartz, Chair