Resolution to Propose Funding the Freeze

WHEREAS college affordability and accessibility are critical in moving Wisconsin forward; and

WHEREAS since the 2011 state budget, the cumulative cuts in state funding to the UW system have totaled $795 million; and

WHEREAS adjusted for inflation, Wisconsin now spends less on educating its UW students than at any time since the founding of the UW-System; and

WHEREAS these cuts have harmed students by reducing class offerings and programs, increasing class sizes, and lengthening the time to degree; and

WHEREAS the budgetary effects of an unfunded resident undergraduate tuition freeze, in effect since 2013, have compounded these educational harms to students; and

WHEREAS according to the governor’s calculations, fully funding the tuition freeze would require a $70 million increase in state funding to the UW System in each of the next three years;

Therefore be it RESOLVED that for the benefit of UW students and the economic vitality of this state, we, the Faculty Senate of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, propose that the state fully fund the freeze; and

Be it further RESOLVED that we call on our campus administration, the UW System Board of Regents, and our elected representatives to advocate for state funding for this purpose in the upcoming 2017–19 biennial budget.