



Title: Vote of No Confidence towards UW System President Raymond Cross

Whereas, on October 11, 2017, UW System President Ray Cross announced the proposal to merge UW Colleges with four-year UW institutions as part of a restructure of UW Colleges and UW-Extension;

Whereas, UW-Stout shared governance partners have been instrumental and continue to play a key role in institutional growth and success as seen in the receiving of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, as well as the planning and implementation of the eStout laptop program and pursuit of the Polytechnic designation, among many others;

Whereas, an open records investigation of the University of Wisconsin System regarding the decision to merge universities revealed a controversial email correspondence between UW System President Ray Cross and Regent Gerald Whitburn, as seen below;

“Yes, I knew Dave E. was supportive and would be vocal. Cliff King indicated he would be as well. I think we will also get strong letters of support from some key leaders elsewhere around the state. Getting hammered by the “shared governance” leaders because they weren't involved in the process; however, had they been involved we wouldn't be doing anything!!”;

Whereas, President Ray Cross’s correspondence with Regent Whitburn has been criticized as being dismissive of shared governance groups, citing that groups essential to implementation would, in contrast, be detrimental;

Whereas, a mission of the UW System is to “model and lead organizational learning and transformation through inclusive excellence, equity, and diversity, by engaging with students, faculty, staff, and a wide variety of external stakeholders, whose diverse viewpoints and experiences enrich the university’s impact.”;

Whereas, a mission of the UW System is to “facilitate effective partnerships with other public and private educational institutions and systems, university governance groups, businesses, students, and others, to create shared solutions to emerging challenges.”;

Whereas, the UW System failed to fulfill these two missions during the structure and planning of this restructure by only engaging and facilitating partnerships with a select group of individuals, creating a rift of distrust among the system and causing concerns of ulterior motives;

Whereas, President Ray Cross consulted with politically connected business interests (Wausau Chamber of Commerce member - Dave Eckmann and Skyward, education management software company, CEO - Cliff King) and exclusively Republican legislators prior to the announcement, as seen in another email from UW System Director of State Relations,



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University of Wisconsin-Stout

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U.S.S. 48.19.04

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Seconded by: Director Schoenike

Sponsored by: None Needed

Jeffrey Schoenfeldt, when stating that UW System had talked with at least 9 Republican legislators;

Whereas, these select people and groups were prioritized and considered more of a “partner” than the shared governance groups and institution administrators that represent the views and voice of all UW System stakeholders;

Whereas, UW-Stout Chancellor Bob Meyer stated at a University Student Senate meeting that he “believe(s) that shared governance processes do slow down the decision-making process. We should err on the side of caution and allow for feedback. If you do invest more time during the decision-making process by gathering feedback and input, you make better decisions and not only that, but the decision is more acceptable and the implementation is usually faster. Even though it slows you down to start with, to invest in shared governance and listening upfront, your implementation usually speeds up afterwards. To me, in terms of timing, it's kind of a wash. It might even go faster and I do believe your implementation will be more effective as well”;

Whereas, Wisconsin State Statutes 36.09(3), 36.09(4), 36.09(4m), and 36.09(5) detail the statutory responsibilities of each governance group and Chancellor, which were not followed with the formulation of this proposal;

Be it therefore resolved, the University Student Senate of the Stout Student Association deem the comments and leadership by President Ray Cross throughout the UW System restructure as irrevocably ruinous;

Be it therefore resolved, the University Student Senate of the Stout Student Association has no confidence in President Ray Cross’s leadership in guiding the UW System through today’s challenges and tomorrow’s opportunities.

Be it therefore resolved, the Stout Student Association calls upon UW-Stout shared governance groups, UW System Student Government Associations, and county boards to vocalize their thoughts, call upon change within UW System, and pass similar resolutions on this matter.

Be it finally resolved, upon the passing of this resolution, a copy will be sent to UW System President Ray Cross, UW System Board of Regents, Attorney Mark Hazelbaker, UW System Student Body Presidents, UW System Chancellors, US Senator Tammy Baldwin, US Senator Ron Johnson, State Senator Patty Schachtner, US Representative Ron Kind, State Representative Rob Stafsholt, Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Counties Association, and regional press & media outlets.



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Action: Passed, Denied, Postponed, Etc.

Vote: 25 - 0 - 0 (Yays-Nays-Abstentions)

Handwritten signature of Alex Vernon in cursive script.

Alex Vernon
President
Stout Student Association

Handwritten signature of Elle Alvarez in cursive script.

Elle Alvarez
Vice-President
Stout Student Association