

As amended and adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 1 February 2010

**RESOLUTION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
REGARDING FURLOUGHS OF NON-STATE-FUNDED EMPLOYEES**

Background

- (1) Research programs at UW-Madison cover a wide range of fundamental and applied problems including energy-environmental challenges, national security concerns, and health issues facing our country and human society in general. For example, UW-Madison researchers are studying the H1N1 virus which poses a near-term threat of a deadly pandemic. Federal taxpayers have a right to expect a timely best effort from funded UW-Madison research teams.
- (2) Furloughs of research personnel violate the spirit of more than a thousand Federal grants and contracts providing hundreds of 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-Madison. Furthermore, research funding is very competitive. Research funding decisions are based in part on the past performance of researchers.
- (3) The University of California, in a state with worse budget problems than Wisconsin, exempted federally funded university employees from furloughs.
- (4) Furloughing non-state-funded employees does not save the state any money.
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.

Resolution

WHEREAS furloughs of gift-funded and federally funded university employees do not save the state any money and exacerbate the state budget problems through a reduction in state income tax revenue; and

WHEREAS furloughs of gift-funded and federally funded university employees unnecessarily harm the university's teaching, research and service missions and damage the university's reputation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate strongly supports the Smart Furlough Bill (Assembly Bill 551) currently pending in the Wisconsin legislature.