

**University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Academic Staff Council Resolution –
Collective Bargaining Enabling Language in the Governor's Budget Bill**

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Academic Staff Council, on behalf of the constituencies we serve, feels that our shared governance rights detailed in Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(4m) provides academic staff employees the opportunity to have a voice in determining policies, including those related to personnel, on campus; and

WHEREAS, some argue that if collective bargaining is allowed there may not be the continued need for the 36.09(4m) shared governance rights now enjoyed; and

WHEREAS, the UW-La Crosse administration continues to include representation from all three governance groups in all major campus decisions; and

WHEREAS, Section 2681 of LRB-1716/1, the language in Governor Doyle's budget bill to establish faculty and academic staff collective bargaining rights, is a policy item – not a budget item. Including it in a budget bill where it cannot get a fair hearing on its own merits is wrong; and

WHEREAS, Section 2681 language would place faculty and academic staff into separate bargaining units that by law could not be combined; and

WHEREAS, Section 2681 creates 14 separate bargaining units, one each for faculty on each of the 13 campuses and one for academic staff system-wide. This places the faculty at Madison and Milwaukee in the best position to demand and receive an unfair, majority share of any compensation package approved by the legislature. Faculty at the comprehensive campuses would be in the next best position to compete for the remaining limited resources, forcing academic staff at UW-La Crosse and the other campuses to settle for little or nothing; and

WHEREAS, the UW-La Crosse Academic Staff Council has long opposed the decoupling of faculty and academic staff compensation and benefits plans; and

WHEREAS, Section 2681 removes the right to strike of collective bargaining units, effectively eliminating any bargaining power those units might have; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Academic Staff Council at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, strongly opposes Section 2681 of the Governor's 2007 budget bill as currently written; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that while we are not saying that we would oppose legislation to allow collective bargaining, this council will continue to oppose any attempt to separate faculty and academic staff pay and benefit plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-La Crosse Academic Staff Council will send this resolution to Chancellor Joe Gow, UW System President Kevin Riley, UW System Board of Regents, UW-La Crosse Faculty Senate, UW-La Crosse Student Association, ASPRO, TAUWP, State Representatives Jennifer Shilling and Mike Huesbch, State Senator Dan Kapanke, and Governor Jim Doyle.

Passed Unanimously by UW-L Academic Staff Council 3/27/07