

**University of Wisconsin-Madison
Committee on Women in the University**

**Resolution Calling for Repeal of the November 2006 Constitutional Amendment
and for Domestic Partnership Benefits**

(14 November 2007, reaffirmed 10 September 2008)

Whereas, the Committee on Women in the University:

- ▶ affirms the inherent dignity and worth of every person;
- ▶ asserts that every person deserves respect and equal protection under the law and affirms the importance of current federal, state, and university legislation prohibiting discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin or ancestry, age or disability, sexual orientation, arrest or conviction record, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, military status, or veteran status;
- ▶ believes that the definition of marriage is not a constitutional issue;
- ▶ values equally the contributions and participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and heterosexual students and employees;
- ▶ recognizes that differential treatment of specific groups hinders the University of Wisconsin-Madison's capacity to attract and retain a diverse body of highly-qualified students and employees and therefore undermines its status as a world-class institution and mission as a university;
- ▶ applauds the University of Wisconsin-Madison's commitment to sustaining its domestic partnership benefits policy and continuing efforts to change exclusionary state policies that preclude equitable access to health, major medical insurances and life insurance; and
- ▶ works to develop a positive, inclusive campus climate and assure that university policies and practices are equitable;

Be it therefore resolved that the Committee on Women in the University:

- ▶ abhors the damage caused by the constitutional amendment;
- ▶ urges all faculty, staff and students to reach out to one another in compassion and continue working to create a welcoming environment and fully inclusive campus community; and
- ▶ reaffirms in the strongest possible terms our commitment to partner with administrators, governance bodies and campus organizations to secure domestic partnership benefits; and

Be it further resolved that the Committee on Women in the University calls for the Wisconsin Legislature to:

- ▶ repeal the November 2006 constitutional amendment¹;
- ▶ provide leadership in improving the climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of the State of Wisconsin, by enacting our state's commitment to equal rights, legal protection, and dignity for all individuals and their families; and
- ▶ collaborate with the University of Wisconsin System and University of Wisconsin-Madison to create an equitable and competitive benefits system that meets the needs of all State of Wisconsin employees and their families.

¹Wisconsin Constitution. Article XIII, §13. Marriage [As created Nov. 2006]. *Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state.* [2003 J.R. 29, 2005 J.R. 30, vote Nov. 2006]