

United Council of UW Students, Inc.

Policy Platform

Amended February 9, 2003

United Council believes that education is a right.

United Council supports the rights of any person to receive an affordable public education.

Shared Governance Issues

1. United Council opposes any effort to reduce the role that students have been granted in institutional governance as defined by Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5).
2. United Council supports the right of students to determine the allocation of all fees that fund student activities without administrative interference.
3. United Council supports the right of student governments to appoint students directly to all institutional committees including Chancellor Search and Screen Committees.
4. United Council supports the absolute right of students to control student fees.
5. United Council supports a Board of Regents selection process which involves a community-based panel of faculty, staff, and students reviewing candidates for educational qualifications and diversity.
6. United Council supports campus efforts to develop a Student Bill of Rights through the productive and constructive efforts of students, faculty, and academic staff working together.
7. United Council opposes attempts by university officials to marginalize student governments by claiming that student governments don't represent students.
8. United Council supports the active participation of student in the creation, approval and review of differential tuition programs.
9. In regards to student appointments to UW System committees, upon notification of United Council by the University of Wisconsin System via e-mail and phone of a student vacancy on a UW System Committee or Working Group, the United Council President shall notify the Student Body Presidents and Vice Presidents of every UW System campus by phone and e-mail of the following:
 - A. The name and composition of the Committee
 - B. The number of students to serve on the Committee
 - C. The Committee charge or mission statement
 - D. Any information regarding the Committee's length of service
 - E. A notice of approximate meeting times and locations

Upon notification of the formation of the committee, each student body president must forward a nominee from their respective campus. Each individual campus

shall be responsible for formulating policies and procedures addressing respective student nominations.

All nominations shall be submitted to the United Council President, by a specified deadline, along with a brief biography of the nominee.

The United Council President shall distribute the names and biographies of every nominee to all Student Body Presidents.

Through e-mail the Student Body Presidents shall forward three votes apiece for three different candidates to the United Council President.

The nominees with the most votes shall fill the vacancies on the Committee. Those nominees will be forwarded to the appropriate UW System administrator(s) by the United Council President.

In case of a tie vote, those nominees who tied will be forwarded to the appropriate UW System administrator(s) by the United Council President. UW System will decide between the nominee(s) to fill the remaining vacancies.

Financial Issues

1. United Council supports capping tuition at 33% of the cost of tuition.
2. United Council supports the right of students to necessary financial aid in an efficient, economical manner.
3. United Council supports annual financial aid increases matching annual tuition increases.
4. United Council supports the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program and the funds it provides for the Talent Incentive Program grant.
5. United Council strongly encourages both universities and private bookstores to keep their prices in line with student financial aid resources.
6. United Council supports any legislation or system policy that would regulate and lower the price of student texts including, but not limited to Tax Exemption.
7. United Council supports all professors who reduce the number of new editions used in classes, by continuing to use current or past editions, in cases where there is no significant change in the material.
8. United Council opposes unilateral cuts as a proposal during any budget process.
9. United Council supports requiring any budget proposal include a General Purpose Revenue match, rather than 100% student funding.
10. United Council opposes tuition increases in excess of the increase of the Consumer Price Index.
11. In order to help meet these requirements, United Council supports student input on the entire budget process.
12. United Council supports all Title IV programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and subsequent amendments. UC further supports maximum funding of Title IV programs.

13. United Council opposes Tax Credits replacing Grant Aid.
14. United Council supports the Gaining Educational Awareness Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) program.
15. United Council opposes the establishment of differential tuition without student government approval.

Academic Issues

1. United Council supports all means which make faculty and academic staff more accountable to students. This includes, but is not limited to access to teacher evaluations.
2. United Council supports improving the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of students of color; students with disabilities; non-traditional students; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students; women students; and other traditionally under-represented and disenfranchised students.
3. United Council supports requiring UW System to transfer all credits between UW institutions.
4. United Council supports any programs that will increase transfer, advising, or credit transfer information.
5. United Council encourages completion of Associate Degrees at two-year campuses.
6. United Council supports institutional autonomy in determining the start date for their academic calendar.

Student Civil/Legal Rights

1. United Council opposes discrimination based on, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religious belief or lack thereof, veteran status, marital/familial/parental status, age, physical appearance, disability, political affiliation, national origin, income level or source, residency status, or geographic disadvantage for any reason including, but not limited to, educational opportunity, employment, housing, physical or emotional well being, and social attitudes.
2. United Council supports the student led campaign for the statistical accounting and documentation of Racial Profiling in the UW System, the state of Wisconsin, and the United States of America.
3. United Council supports a renter's rights state law which would prevent landlords from collecting more than one month's rent for a security deposit; which would forbid advance rent payments except for the following month; and which would require landlords to pay at least 5% annual interest on returned deposit money.
4. United Council supports strong sexual harassment education and awareness training and policies which would guarantee students' action on their complaints.
5. United Council supports programs which aid in the prevention of sexual violence and provide services for survivors of sexual violence.

6. United Council supports a campus and classroom climate which respects people regardless of gender and strengthens and advances their role in the educational process.
7. United Council supports a "manner of dress" law which would disqualify as evidence in a trial the manner of dress of an alleged victim of sexual assault of rape.
8. United Council supports affordable, accessible, and quality child care for all students.
9. United Council supports the provisions of Title IX of the 1972 Higher Education Act which promotes gender equity in athletics.
10. United Council supports a minimum drinking age of 19.
11. United Council supports the establishment of comprehensive recycling programs at all UW System institutions.
12. United Council supports any action or legislation that would have the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents directly elected by students or the general electorate.
13. United Council supports student-led movements for students' rights.
14. United Council of UW Students supports efforts to retire "Indian" mascots, logos, and derogatory imagery of Native Americans.
15. United Council supports the struggle to end identity profiling by the US Government in areas such as the INS, the military, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, but shall not be limited to these areas. Identity profiling shall include but is not limited to profiling based on perceived race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, and immigration status. United Council will actively support any endeavor to end all forms of identity profiling on all levels of public regulation.
16. United Council actively opposes the use of the word "minority" in system-wide, state and federal policies to categorize African Americans, Asian Pacific Islander Americans, Latina/os, Chicana/os and American Indians; United Council encourages the use of other terms, not identifying power relations, in place of the term "minority."
17. United Council of UW Students supports Welfare programs that seek to increase educational access.
18. United Council of UW Students supports sensitive comprehensive student controlled health services which are inclusive to women.
19. United Council of UW Students supports a right for women to have access to fair, affordable, and comprehensive health care and resources in all communities.
20. United Council of UW Students supports programs which aid in the prevention of domestic violence and provide services for survivors of domestic violence.
21. United Council of UW Systems supports the spirit of the availability of Emergency Contraception.

Recruitment and Retention of Students of Color

1. United Council unilaterally opposes the elimination of any policies that hurt efforts to recruit and retain students of color in higher education, including but not

- limited to, efforts to abolish affirmative action policies; United Council supports affirmative action policies in university admissions and employment in Wisconsin and the United States of America.
2. United Council actively supports full funding for initiatives to strengthen the recruitment and retention of students of color, including but not limited to, Plan 2008: Educational Quality through Racial and Ethnic Diversity.
 3. United Council actively supports the creation, implementation, expansion and full-funding for specific ethnic studies departments such as an African American Studies Department, Asian American Studies Department, Latin American Studies Department, Chicano Studies Department and American Indian Studies Department.
 4. United Council actively supports the infusion of people of color history and perspectives in existing academic departments and programs such as Women's Studies, English, History, etc.
 5. United Council actively supports the creation and implementation of multicultural student centers on two-year universities across UW System to better recruit and support students of color.
 6. United Council supports the creation of full-time academic staff positions at each UW System institution to work on implementing the goals of respective campus' Plan 2008, and to collaborate with students through student government association, student organizations, and multicultural organizations to evaluate the effectiveness of the institution's respective plan.
 7. United Council supports efforts to increase the number of faculty of color and tenured faculty of color as a means to improve the recruitment and retention of students of color in higher education institutions.
 8. United Council reaffirms its dedication to fighting racism and racist policies and institutions that have oppressed and continue to oppress people of color in Wisconsin and the United States of America.