

**University of Wisconsin-Stout, Senate of the Academic Staff Resolution in
Opposition to the Proposed Constitutional Amendment Regarding Marriage**

Whereas, on November 7, 2006 the voters of the state of Wisconsin will be asked to consider an amendment to Wisconsin's state constitution, creating a new section 13 of article XIII with the following language:

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.

And, whereas such an amendment would further intolerance and thus have significant and far-reaching societal consequences,

And, whereas current federal, state, and university legislation broadly and specifically prohibit both harassment and discrimination,

And, whereas the proposed amendment would put into question the legality of domestic partner benefits,

And, whereas the University of Wisconsin is the only Big Ten institution that does not offer domestic partner benefits to its employees,

And, whereas the recruitment and retention of high-quality faculty and staff is predicated on an inclusive climate that supports all individuals,

And, whereas such an amendment is inconsistent with the University of Wisconsin-Stout's values and commitment to provide a broad contemporary education to its students,

And, whereas the Senate of the Academic Staff at the University of Wisconsin-Stout has previously stood in support of domestic partner benefits as part of the 2005-2007 state budget,

And, whereas the Senate of the Academic Staff at the University of Wisconsin-Stout has previously stood in opposition to the legislation that brought this constitutional amendment forward,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that, the Senate of the Academic Staff at the University of Wisconsin-Stout stands with the Board of Regents in opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment.

And be it further resolved, that the Senate of the Academic Staff of the University of Wisconsin-Stout opposes ANY proposed amendment to Wisconsin's constitution that would serve to harass or discriminate against individuals based on their race, color, creed, cultural background, ethnicity, religion, gender, national origin or ancestry, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy, parental status, military status, or veteran status.