SUB 1 to 2020 RES-217
URGING THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON TO
DISCONTINUE IN PERSON CLASSES

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has infected millions worldwide, with nearly seven million cases and over 200,000 deaths in the United States, and over nine thousand cases in Dane County. The return of students to the University of Wisconsin-Madison has resulted in cases not only among the student body, but also in the community at large. The following timeline traces the ramifications of UW-Madison's decisions:

- On June 17th, 2020, University of Wisconsin - Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank sent a university-wide communication titled "Planning a Smart Restart for UW-Madison," which indicated an executive decision to welcome students back on campus.

- On August 24th, more than a third of the Dane County Board of Supervisors and nearly half of the Madison City Council signed a letter expressing their concern with UW - Madison's plan to reopen, demanding virtual learning and public disclosure of COVID-19 metrics.

- On September 9th, 2020, the University of Wisconsin - Madison reported a record-high 290 new positive cases in one day. Public Health Madison & Dane County declared downtown Madison a high-risk area and directed residents and employees in the area to "to assume you were exposed to COVID-19 and monitor yourself for symptoms." Dane County Executive Joe Parisi sent a letter to UW System President Tommy Thompson and Chancellor Rebecca Blank imploring the leadership team to send students home and expand the testing capacity of University Health Services.

- Following this announcement, University of Wisconsin - Madison declared a two week quarantine for students living in residence halls Sellery and Witte and a shift to online classes from September 9th to September 25th.

- At this time, less than a month into the Fall semester, 7% of UW-Madison's entire student population has already tested positive for COVID-19.

It's clear that the return of UW-Madison students to campus have posed a significant risk not only for Madison-area residents, but for Dane County residents as a whole.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Dane County urges UW-Madison Chancellor Rebecca Blank, UW System President Tommy Thompson, Governor Tony Evers, and all affiliated administrators to adopt the following changes to the 'Smart Restart' Plan:

- Only offer online instruction until Public Health Madison & Dane County reports zero (0) cases for fourteen (14) consecutive days, with an exception only for independent study credits necessary for international students to maintain their visa status.

- After that point and until the end of the pandemic, use online instruction as the default modality, allowing departments to offer courses in-person only when pedagogically

48   necessary. Design instructional programs around offering the highest-quality education at
49   the lowest risk for students, workers, and community members.

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51   •   Make accessibility the default for educational delivery, providing equitable access to
52   education for students with disabilities and/or chronic illness through universal accessible
53   design that does not require medical documentation or an extensive application process.

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55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges UW-Madison
56 Chancellor Rebecca Blank to require students test negative for Covid-19 before closing the
57 residence halls and encouraging students to return to their homes for the safety of the greater
58 Dane County community during the COVID-19 pandemic, with an exception for international
59 students or students facing homelessness or an unsafe home life, who should be allowed to stay.
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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in light of statewide surges in COVID-19 particularly in cities
62 with University of Wisconsin campuses, the Dane County Board of Supervisors urges Interim UW
63 System President Tommy G. Thompson and the Wisconsin Board of Regents to consider
64 directing other Wisconsin campuses to conduct all coursework virtually.
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66 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to UW-Madison Chancellor
67 Rebecca Blank, UW System President Tommy G. Thompson, members of the Wisconsin Board
68 of Regents, and Governor Tony Evers.