

Motions/Resolutions

Motions are formal proposals by members, in meetings, that the body take a certain action. Motions can bring business before a body for a vote, or they can involve procedural steps relating to a motion that is being considered.

For more important or complex questions, or when greater formality is desired, motions are presented in the form of a resolution. Resolutions have the same effect as a motion, and are drafted in advance of the meeting, phrased in a specific way. Reasons for (and/or background to) the resolution are preceded by the word “Whereas.” These are typically factual statements. The resolution itself is preceded by the words, “Resolved, that,” followed by a description of the action to be taken by a body or a request for action to be taken by another body.

In the Senate, resolutions are almost always used for a couple reasons. 1) Open meetings law requires that voting items be noticed and the formal style of a resolution is an easy way to comply with this requirement especially when the voting item is coming from a member of the Senate. 2) Resolutions can provide more background to members who may be less informed about the issue at hand.

Example of Motion:

(After obtaining the floor—see page *lvi*) “I move that the minutes of the Faculty Senate be adopted.”

Example Resolution:

Resolution to Convene Ad-Hoc Committee on Bridge Funding Presented by Joe Smith

Whereas at least 5,000 academic staff are funded through sources that are not permanent such as federal grants or gift funds;

Whereas research project budgets are experiencing general constriction leading to increased risk of job insecurity for academic staff regardless of PI status;

Whereas job security is an important condition of employment for academic staff and important to faculty members running laboratories;

Whereas, the UW-Madison risks losing vast swaths of institutional and research field knowledge and experience when academic staff are laid off due to funding loss;

Be it resolved that the University Committee will convene an ad hoc committee on Bridge Funding to explore the issue and recommend solutions that improve the funding stability for laboratory staff paid from non-permanent sources.