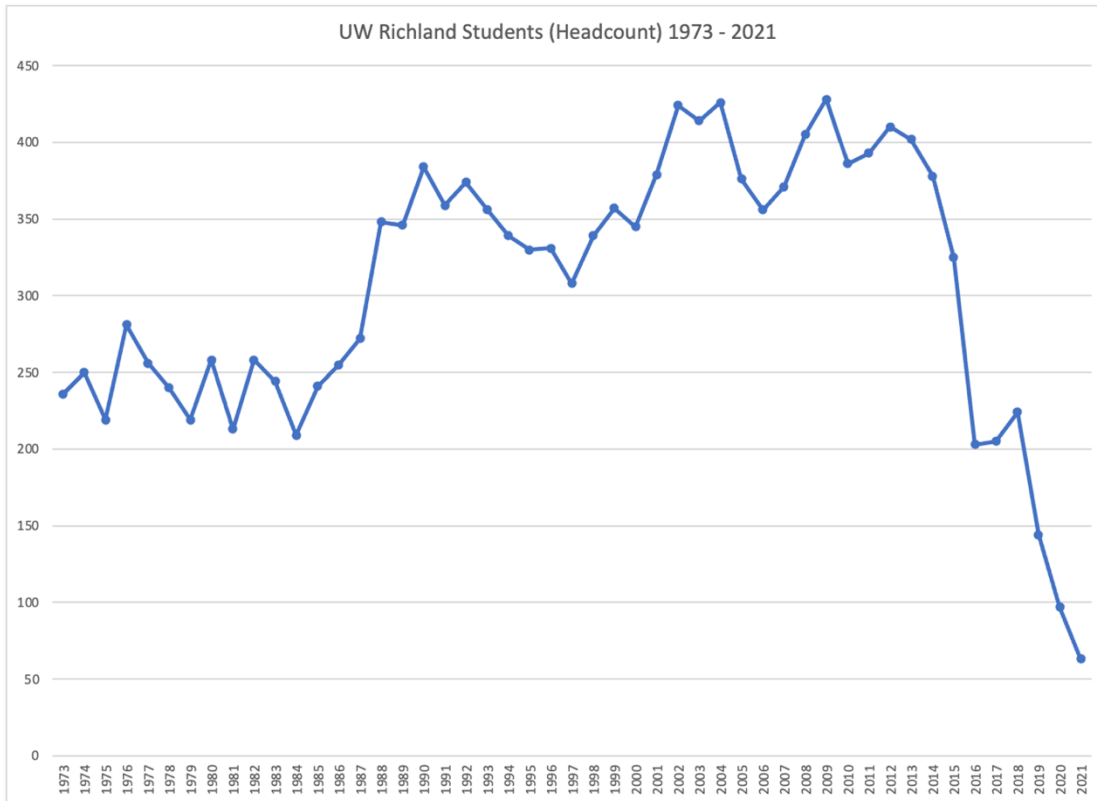


RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 131

A Resolution Stating the Position of the Richland County Board of Supervisors Regarding the Status of the UW-Richland Campus.

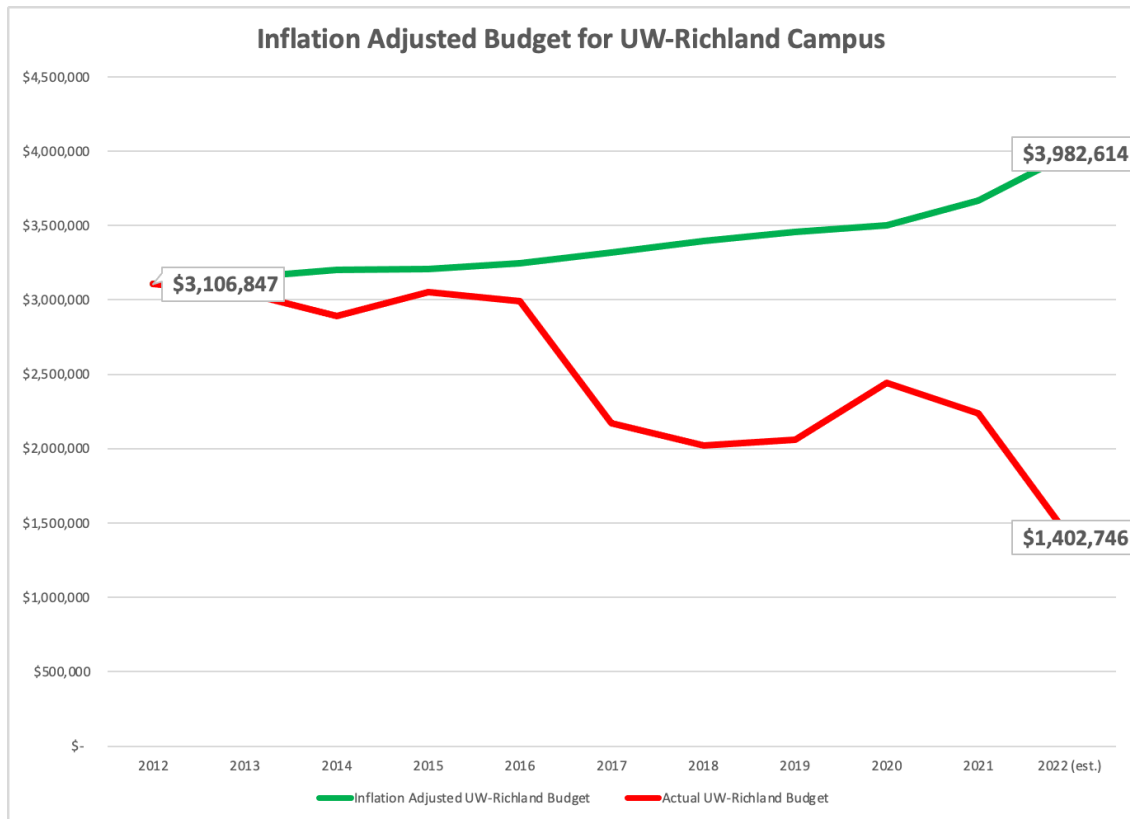
WHEREAS student headcount enrollment at the UW-Richland campus has dropped from over 400 in the 2012 - 2013 school year to 64 in the current 2022 – 2023 school year, and



WHEREAS, the campus budget allocated by the State of Wisconsin has fallen from approximately \$3.1 million in the 2012 – 2013 school year to \$1.4 million in the current 2022 – 2023 school year, and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Price Index shows that prices increased 25% between 2012 and 2022, and

WHEREAS, if the UW-Richland campus budget had kept pace with inflation, the annual budget for the campus in 2022 would have been \$4.0 million, and



WHEREAS, the UW-Richland campus now has the smallest enrollment of any campus in the UW system, and

WHEREAS, economic impact reports in 2006 and 2018 found the campus has had an estimated \$7 million direct impact on the Richland County area economy, and

WHEREAS, the working people of Richland County paid for the construction of the campus in 1967 and have maintained it for 55 years with their countywide property and sales tax revenues, and

WHEREAS, a full-time recruiter is the number one priority for our campus, and

WHEREAS, a college campus in our local community gives working people and their kids the opportunity to attend a local university so they can gain an education and then earn a better living, and

WHEREAS, UW System President Jay Rothman issued a directive on November 22, 2022 to Interim Chancellor Evetovich to “. . . develop a plan to adjust . . . the offerings at the Richland campus by transitioning the in-person degree instructional programs at Richland to the main UW-Platteville campus . . .”, and

WHEREAS, testimonials have been received from students, alumni, K-12 school staff, and community members that recruitment for the UW-Richland campus was not being faithfully carried out by UW-Platteville, and

WHEREAS, state elected officials have been misinformed of the facts, including State Senator Howard Marklein, who stated on December 11, 2022 in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: “Enrollment continued to decline no matter how much money, resources, and attention the UW System invested,” and

WHEREAS, the UW-Richland campus niche is affordability, small class sizes, an international program, a rural setting, and geographic accessibility for lower income and working people, and

WHEREAS, a petition with 1,500 signatures asks that Governor Evers, Senator Marklein, Assemblyman Kurtz, and President Rothman meet with the community to share ideas about how to save the campus, and

WHEREAS, the County Board has already passed Resolution 22-72 requesting the State increase budget to 2015 levels, and

WHEREAS, Richland County owns and leases the 134-acre campus to the UW System through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) through 2042, and

WHEREAS, the MOA states the Board of Regents and Richland County have deemed it “*mutually advantageous to serve the educational needs of the people of the Richland County area by maintaining a branch campus . . .*”, and

WHEREAS, the MOA states it shall be automatically terminated as of June 30 of any year if “*a) Appropriations by the Legislature are insufficient to permit continued operation of the branch campus, b) State legislation concerning higher education in Wisconsin involves a fundamental change in the branch campus program,*” and

WHEREAS, the MOA includes approximately 30 acres of sloping farmland behind the campus, and

WHEREAS, Richland Center has a housing shortage, as determined through a 2019 Housing & Workforce Study, and

WHEREAS, due to levy limits and reduced state shared revenues, Richland County government has struggled to maintain buildings on the campus.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Richland County implores the UW system to return a full-time recruiter to the UW-Richland campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Richland County submits a budget request for \$4 million for the 2023 – 2024 academic year to the UW System to abide by the terms of the MOA to maintain a branch campus at UW-Richland campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Richland County requests a professional outside mediator to be present during any further negotiations where UW-Platteville staff are present, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a portion of the farmland shall be removed from the MOA for an environmentally sensitive housing development, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Richland County shall work with the UW System to determine a mutually beneficial minimum level of student enrollment required to keep UW-Richland as a branch campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Richland County shall also work with the UW System to determine clear annual targets to quickly return to the minimum student enrollment level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk transmit a copy of this resolution and the attached presentation to Governor Tony Evers, the Governor's Deputy Policy Director Katie Domina, UW System President Jay Rothman, each individual member of the UW Board of Regents, UW-Platteville Interim Chancellor Tammy Evetovich, UW-Platteville Assistant Provost Michael Compton, State Senator Howard Marklein, State Assembly Representative Travis Tranel, State Assembly Representative Todd Novak, State Assembly Representative Tony Kurtz, and Wisconsin Counties Association President Mark O'Connell.