



**ASM**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

**Associated Students of Madison**

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LETTER IN SUPPORT

DATE: March 16, 2020

To whom it may concern:

We are writing in support of the student seat on the City of Madison's Downtown Coordinating Committee (DCC). In our view, this Committee facilitates necessary dialogues between local businesses, student residents, and city officials, in the downtown community, and at present, we are aware that within the 8th Aldermanic District, the majority of residents are students.

As a key stakeholder of the downtown community, the student voice is critically important in ensuring businesses operate in a healthy way, the regulation of public space use is comprehensive, and the City of Madison fosters an environment where all residents feel heard and empowered.

For instance, we understand that Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), once rolled out, will affect the student experience in the downtown area most. If successful, students will be able to make it to class on time, travel to jobs not in the immediate campus area, and study at libraries regularly with this method of public transportation. Eventually, a well-facilitated and implemented BRT system will allow students to build community as they spend time at local parks, museums, and campus events. We know that the timeline for BRT is not set in stone yet, but with a student seat on the DCC, this can be rolled out in an equitable manner.

In addition, we feel that one of the principal measures of a successful community is its financial and emotional commitment to culture and arts. Cities with a strong arts and cultural foundation attract more families and profitable businesses. While students are a central consumer base of such businesses, the ability for a student to facilitate this voice on the DCC would prove beneficial to everyone.

The Associated Students of Madison (ASM) currently represents over 40,000 students to campus leadership at UW-Madison in over 70 campus committees that govern the direction of facilities planning and management, academic curriculum review, and student wellbeing services across the university. We also appoint or recommend students to city committees, such as the Alcohol License Review Committee and the Joint Campus Area Committee. In these spaces, the ability of a committed, engaged, and involved student is a vocal and necessary way of ensuring that students have a say in policies that directly impact them.

Sincerely,

*Amol Goyal, Shared Governance Chair*  
*Matthew Mitnick, Press Office Director*