

TAA Resolution against Foxconn's access to University of Wisconsin's Intellectual Labor

WHEREAS the UW-Foxconn partnership diverts University labor and public resources into private for-profit research, fundamentally contradicting the Wisconsin Idea (that research and labor provided by the University should be first used for the betterment of the State of Wisconsin and her peoples);

WHEREAS Foxconn has already reneged on its promises to deliver supposed economic growth and employment opportunities for the State;¹

WHEREAS Foxconn threatens to destroy the environmental and ecological systems in Racine and the entire Great Lakes Region;²

WHEREAS Foxconn's factories are known to have working conditions so poor that laborers threatened to commit suicide en masse in protest;³

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin-Madison's College of Engineering has dedicated \$75 million in matching funds to build a public-private research building that, without public oversight, may use public resources and graduate student labor for Foxconn's profit, and that the underlying 'Master Cooperation Agreement' represents an affront on public research;

WHEREAS the UW Administration has been deliberately opaque about the details of the UW-Foxconn partnership in a manner dismissive of student, staff, employee, and citizen's related concerns; and

WHEREAS graduate students have already organized in opposition to the agreement that opens both UW researchers and Wisconsinites to exploitation,

It is therefore RESOLVED that the Teaching Assistants' Association at UW-Madison, American Federation of Teachers Local 3220, will also stand in opposition to Foxconn's

¹ After Foxconn received \$4.1 billion in state subsidies to construct a generation 10 factory providing 13,000 jobs, it announced it would only construct a Generation 6 factory providing 3,000 jobs.

²<https://www.jsonline.com/story/opinion/contributors/2018/06/25/foxconn-plant-poised-become-leading-poluter-wisconsin/721353002/>;

https://madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/bill-significantly-rolls-back-environmental-rules-for-foxconn/article_77e2c1d1-e7e6-558a-947d-4b45c57c436b.html;

<https://bloximages.chicago2.vip.townnews.com/madison.com/content/tncms/assets/v3/editorial/4/6a/46a7c5c2-b4b7-5458-913c-8b1799d488e4/597fd6536a3eb.pdf.pdf>

³<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jun/18/foxconn-life-death-forbidden-city-longhua-suicide-a-people-iphone-brian-merchant-one-device-extract>

presence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as well as their presence in the State of Wisconsin;

It is further RESOLVED that the TAA will demand transparency, accountability, and democracy in University negotiations with Foxconn, and

It is further RESOLVED that the TAA will call on Governor-elect Tony Evers to oppose the partnership, and

It is further RESOLVED that the TAA will call on the UW Board of Regents to oppose the partnership; and

It is further RESOLVED that the TAA will engage in organizing and working in coalition with the communities opposing the partnership.