Senate Assembly Resolution on Dark Skies

Whereas some forms of night-time lighting impede public safety and are a serious environmental concern, corresponding to forms of lighting that are a nuisance and serve no useful purpose, and are therefore defined as light pollution;

Whereas, in particular, glare impedes visibility on roads and pedestrian walkways, creating a threat to roadway users, especially cyclists and pedestrians; and light trespass and skyglow disrupt human sleep cycles and are linked to multiple medical conditions;

Whereas artificial light at night is also a major threat to the environment because it disrupts the natural ecosystem and generates energy inefficiencies that contribute to climate change;

Whereas artificial light at night is also necessary to help ensure the safe performance of outdoor activities;

Therefore, in order to:

1. Minimize adverse impacts of light pollution in the form of light trespass, glare and skyglow;

2. Protect the natural environment from artificial light at night;

3. Promote energy efficiency;

4. Foster an environment that supports and/or enhances nighttime activities serving the University’s missions in research, teaching, and service;

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Assembly encourages the University to comply with best practices for minimizing light pollution that are recommended by the International Dark Sky Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society, by revising the U-M Design Guidelines and mitigating existing sources of light pollution as soon as is feasible.