

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION: CHANGING ELECTION DATES AND
TERMS OF OFFICE

NUMBER 51-B-10 DATE November 19, 2007

INTRODUCED BY RAYMOND FRENCH, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT; MEGHAN
CHARLIER, STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT

1 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate currently holds its general
2 elections in the first or second week of March; and

3 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate's Executives and Executive
4 Board currently take office at the third meeting after the election, which is around
5 the first week of April; and

6 WHEREAS, nearly all other 25 UW-System campuses hold their elections in
7 mid-April with their executives taking office in early May; and

8 WHEREAS, there currently exists a disconnect between UW-Eau Claire and
9 the other collective campuses because there is an interim period during which
10 UW-Eau Claire's incoming executives are attempting work with other campus
11 executives on their way out; and

12 WHEREAS, this current situation also allows for the period of late January

13 through February to be known as a “lame-duck” period; and

14 WHEREAS, this current situation also requires the executives and new
15 Senators to need more than one orientation, one before summer session and one
16 in early fall; and

17 WHEREAS, having the general elections in early March tends to lead
18 towards an unproductive spring semester for Student Senate; and

19 WHEREAS, having the elections in mid-April would allow for the greatest
20 amount of commitment and participation by students and Student Senate
21 participants; and

22 WHEREAS, this change would make coordinating with other UW-System
23 schools easier on any issue that arose during the year; and

24 WHEREAS, it would be in the best interest of the students for this revision
25 to occur before the next general election; and

26 WHEREAS, all constitutional changes in Attachment “B” are a direct result
27 of changing the general election dates;

28 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate
29 authorizes the referendum on Attachment “A” to be placed on the next special
30 election ballot; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate
32 authorizes that if the question passes, the changes to the constitution on
33 Attachment “B” take effect immediately; and

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate
35 authorizes this special election to take place on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, from
36 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and

37 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that upon passage, President French transmit
38 a copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice
39 Chancellor, Business and Student Services; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice
40 Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University
41 Senate; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student
42 Development & Diversity; and Jesse Dixon, Acting Associate Dean of Student
43 Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Attachment "A"

Referendum Question:

Do you, the students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, agree to amend the Student Body Constitution to change the Student Senate general election dates from the "first or second week of March" to the "second or third week of April" effective immediately?

Answer: Yes/No

ARTICLE III: STUDENT SENATE

Section 1: Membership.

C: Representation. Each Senator shall be elected from one of the two student communities, on-campus and off-campus, and must be elected from the student body at large. If a senator's residence changes to the other community and there is an open seat in the new community, he/she will automatically be transferred to that seat. However, if no vacant seat exists, he/she will have to wait for the next special/general election and run again. Consistent with the total number of officially enrolled university students residing in each community, the Executive Board of the Senate shall annually apportion, by the ~~second week of February~~third week of March, the 30 Senate seats between the two communities.

D: General Elections. The general election shall be held annually in the ~~first or second week in March~~second or third week of April. The Executive Board shall establish, by the end of the fall semester, the specific date(s) for the general election.

E: Special Elections. If, at the end of ~~August~~September, each community has more than one-third of its apportioned Senate seats vacant or occupied by appointees, the Executive Board shall call and schedule for the ~~first or second~~third or fourth week in October a special election to fill such seats. If this one-third threshold is reached by only one community the Senate may, by a two-thirds vote, provide for a special election to be held only in that community. The Senate in its bylaws may provide for a threshold requiring special elections which is proportionally less than one-third and applicable to both communities.

F: Vacancies. Vacancies arising in the Senate shall be filled by appointment upon majority vote of the Vacancies Committee of the Senate, with the advice and consent of the Senate, until the next election. The Vacancies Committee of the Senate shall consist of the President and Vice President, one off-campus Senator, one on-campus Senator, and one member of the Executive Board. The election of the Senators to this committee shall take place at the third or fourth meeting of the Senate after the general election.

Section 2: Officers.

C: Terms of office. The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be from the third Senate meeting following their election until the third Senate meeting following the next general election. (2) The term of office for the Treasurer shall be from the ~~sixth~~third or fourth Senate meeting following the general election until the ~~sixth~~third or fourth Senate meeting following the next general election or until a successor is appointed and confirmed, which ever occurs first. (3) Officers of the Senate may succeed themselves.

F: Other officers. To fill such positions as may be created by the Senate in its bylaws, other officers, who need not be members of the Senate, may be appointed, removed or replaced by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Unless the Senate in its bylaws provides otherwise, the terms of such officers, including Standing Commission Chairpersons shall be from the ~~sixth~~third or fourth Senate meeting following the general election until the ~~sixth~~third or fourth Senate meeting following the next general election or until a successor is appointed and confirmed, which ever occurs first. Such officers may succeed themselves.