

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION IN SUPPORT OF THE HOBBS ICE ARENA RENOVATION AND  
EXPANSION

NUMBER 51-B-14 DATE February 25, 2008

INTRODUCED BY THOMAS HOLTAN, FINANCE COMMISSION DIRECTOR AND  
FINANCE COMMISSION

- 1           **WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena has served the ice skating needs of the**  
2 **community of Eau Claire since 1975; and**
- 3           **WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena is home to the University of Wisconsin-**  
4 **Eau Claire Blugold Men’s and Women’s Hockey teams, the Eau Claire Memorial**  
5 **and North High School Hockey teams, the Eau Claire Figure Skating Club, and the**  
6 **Eau Claire Youth Hockey Association; and**
- 7           **WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena currently serves more than 250,000**  
8 **visitors annually; and**
- 9           **WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena fills to capacity at numerous events; and**
- 10           **WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena is currently too small to host NCAA**  
11 **events; and**
- 12           **WHEREAS, a larger facility with our name prominent would encourage**

13 prospective students to attend UWEC; and

14 WHEREAS, any visitor to Hobbs Ice Arena thinks, from its outside  
15 appearance, that the building is a warehouse; and

16 WHEREAS, there is not an adequate entrance for community members,  
17 students, or our guests; and

18 WHEREAS, the facilities are not adequate for our student users; and

19 WHEREAS, a major liability of the facility is the location of the locker rooms  
20 to the team locker rooms; and

21 WHEREAS, the hockey teams have their lockers and changing rooms  
22 upstairs and their shower facilities downstairs; and

23 WHEREAS, this creates a tricky situation in terms of changing and cleaning  
24 up after games; and

25 WHEREAS, it is not uncommon to see a line of players traipsing up and  
26 down the stairs in their robes before and after practices; and

27 WHEREAS, the current facility is a deterrent when prospect students  
28 investigate UWEC Blugold Hockey; and

29 WHEREAS, a goal in the Strategic Plan is to foster and develop  
30 relationships with the city on capital expense projects; and

31 WHEREAS, the Student Senate has collaborated successfully with the City  
32 of Eau Claire on previous occasions including the Carson Park Project, and  
33 public transit; and

34           **WHEREAS, as one of Wisconsin’s premier undergraduate universities, the**  
35 **quality of our facilities should reflect how we value our students; and**

36           **WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation has agreed to match a**  
37 **commitment of the UW-Eau Claire students up to \$250,000 (Attachment “A”); and**

38           **WHEREAS, the contribution of the students, through segregated fees,**  
39 **would not increase segregated fees more than fifty cents for two years, and a**  
40 **dollar for four years (Attachment “B”); and**

41           **WHEREAS, the collective sum of our donations would be a positive**  
42 **stepping stone for the community while fundraising to collect the rest; and**

43           **WHEREAS, without the student contribution, this renovation project will**  
44 **not be possible; and**

45           **WHEREAS, without the renovation, Hobbs Ice Arena may be closing,**  
46 **leaving few options available for student users;**

47           **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the users of**  
48 **Hobbs Ice Arena; and**

49           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the future**  
50 **dedicated area of the expansion that would include: men’s and women’s locker**  
51 **rooms, offices, training room, weight room, entrance area, and additional seating;**  
52 **and**

53           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the future**  
54 **observation area on the second floor, used to promote the hockey program and**

55 the University; and

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Student Senate supports the University's  
57 name and emblem to be promoted throughout the renovation; and

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Student Senate supports the donation of  
59 \$250,000 of segregated fees through the payment plan Alt. 9 (Attachment "B");  
60 and

61 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that upon passage, President French transmit  
62 a copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Steve Tallant,  
63 Provost/Vice Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business and Student  
64 Services; Dave Gessner, Director, Business Services; Kimera Way, UWEC  
65 Foundation; Scott Kilgallon, Director, Athletics; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University  
66 Senate; United Council; Ann Lapp, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Student  
67 Development & Diversity; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student  
68 Development, Student Development & Diversity.