

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION OF ABSENTEE VOTING FOR UW-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS

NUMBER 51-B-6 DATE April 30, 2007

INTRODUCED BY JACQUELINE CHAMBERS, MEDIA RELATIONS CHAIRPERSON AND
JACOB BOER, PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION DIRECTOR AND ON-CAMPUS SENATOR

- 1 **WHEREAS, the University has approximately 230 students participating in**
2 **Study Abroad and National Student Exchange programs every spring; and**
- 3 **WHEREAS, additional students participate in off-campus internships and**
4 **student teaching opportunities; and**
- 5 **WHEREAS, the majority of those students return to Eau Claire the following**
6 **fall; and**
- 7 **WHEREAS, the students are still considered UW-Eau Claire students while**
8 **away from the Eau Claire campus; and**
- 9 **WHEREAS, Student Senate is a representative body of all UW-Eau Claire**
10 **students; and**
- 11 **WHEREAS, upon completion of their semester, the majority of these**

12 **students return to Eau Claire; and**

13 **WHEREAS, during semesters when students are abroad elections take**
14 **place that will affect their future at Eau Claire; and**

15 **WHEREAS, currently students who are not in Eau Claire are not allowed to**
16 **vote during Student Senate and on-campus elections; and**

17 **WHEREAS, these students do not have the chance to voice their concerns**
18 **and choose their representation; and**

19 **WHEREAS, Student Senate encourages students to be informed and active**
20 **citizens both on campus and in the real world; and**

21 **WHEREAS, the government of the United States allows citizens who are**
22 **not in their voting district to vote using an absentee ballot; and**

23 **WHEREAS, absentee voting gives citizens the choice to exercise their right**
24 **to vote while away from home; and**

25 **WHEREAS, eventually Student Senate elections may be entirely electronic**
26 **on the MyBlugold system, that could still be years away;**

27 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate will implement a**
28 **plan for absentee voting; and**

29 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that absentee ballots should be available for**
30 **students not on campus; and**

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it will be the absentee students**
32 **responsibility to obtain an absentee ballot and return it on time; and**

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Relations Commission will**
34 **advertise the absentee voting to all students; and**

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon passage, the changes in
36 **Attachments A, B, and C will be made to the Student Senate Bylaws; and**

37 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that upon passage, President French transmit
38 **copies of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice**
39 **Chancellor, Business & Student Services; Susan Lochner, Cheryl Lochner-Wright,**
40 **and Colleen Marchwick, Study Abroad Coordinators; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate**
41 **Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate**
42 **Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity; and Mary Ryan-**
43 **Miller, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.**

ATTACHMENT "A"

ARTICLE 2: DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONSSection 6: Absentee Voting

All students wishing to vote in campus elections while participating in an off-campus program such as, but not limited to, Study Abroad or National Student Exchange, or students who cannot be on campus during the entire election period for reasons covered by university policy, may vote while following these guidelines.

- A. The Public Relations Commission will advertise the availability of absentee voting to students through various methods including email the first day petitions for office are available.
- B. Students must email the Student Senate Parliamentarian before elections begin to request an absentee ballot, while providing their Blugold Identification number and the reason they are requesting the ballot.
- C. Electronic ballots will be emailed to students when the polls are opened on the first day of the election, and must be returned by the time the polls close the last day of election.
- D. No person will be able to vote using an absentee ballot and at the booth on campus.

ATTACHMENT "B"

ARTICLE 9: OTHER OFFICERSSection 1: Parliamentarian

- D. The Parliamentarian shall be in charge of all absentee voting procedures including sending electronic ballots to students who request them and keeping accurate records in order to keep students from voting both electronically and at the booth on campus.

ATTACHMENT "C"

ARTICLE 11: EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORSSection 1: Standing Commissions

- G. Public Relations: This commission shall:
 7. Promote awareness of absentee voting for all students by
 - a. Creating literature for the National Student Exchange and Study Abroad orientation packets to be distributed to all participants.
 - b. Advertising absentee voting in the campus media, along with other election information.
 - c. Sending out an informational email to all students the first day petitions for office are available.
 - d. Promoting voting the week of elections.