WHEREAS, currently the only gender-neutral bathrooms on the UW-EC campus are in Phillips Science Hall; and

WHEREAS, persons who would benefit from these facilities are not always in Phillips Science Hall; and

WHEREAS, the label of “unisex” on these bathrooms is offensive to some individuals; and

WHEREAS, transgender, genderqueer, and other non-gender-conforming individuals (see Attachment “C”) often report abstaining from bathroom use in public, leading to various health problems; and

WHEREAS, gender-neutral bathrooms are safer and more comfortable for transgender, genderqueer, and other non-gender-conforming individuals; and

WHEREAS, parents and guardians of young children cannot accompany their different-gendered children to bathrooms that are gender-specific; and
WHEREAS, individuals with disabilities needing assistance from a guardian or caretaker cannot currently do so if their caretaker is different-gendered; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities has proposed plans for the inclusion of gender-neutral accessible bathrooms in Hibbard Humanities Hall and the Human Sciences and Services building (see attachments “A” and “B”); and

WHEREAS, numerous colleges across the country, including the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, have gender-neutral bathrooms available on their campuses; and

WHEREAS, the UW-EC’s Policy on Non-Discriminatory Conduct states that, “The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to providing a community that respects the dignity and worth of all members;”

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate affirms the right of all UW-Eau Claire students, staff, and visitors a safe and accessible bathroom facilities for themselves and their dependents, regardless of gender identity, disability status, or status as a parent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate support the conversion of existing unisex bathrooms into gender-neutral bathrooms; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate support the conversion of existing unisex bathrooms in Phillips Science Hall into gender-neutral bathrooms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports the plans for gender-neutral accessible bathrooms in Hibbard Humanities Hall and the Human Science and Services building proposed by the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate fully supports the incorporation of gender-neutral and accessible bathrooms in the UW-Eau Claire facilities where possible; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Steven Tallant, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business & Student Services; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; Charles Farrell, Director, University Centers; All UW System Student Governments; Terry Classen, Director, Facilities Planning; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University Senate; and Jesse Dixon, Acting Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Elizabeth Lorenz, Student Services Commission Director
Emily Mattheisen, Student Life & Diversity Commission
Director, Students with Disabilities Chairperson
and Off-Campus Senator
October 29, 2007