WHEREAS, tuition has increased 70% over the last six years;
and
WHEREAS, student financial aid has not increased proportionately to tuition increases; and
WHEREAS, currently, approximately 31,000 students in the University of Wisconsin System receive the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant (WHEG); and
WHEREAS, in 2006, the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education gave the State of Wisconsin an “F” in affordability saying, “The State’s investment in need-based financial aid is very low when compared with top-performing states;” and
WHEREAS, over 60% of the UW resident undergraduates graduate with debt; and
WHEREAS, in the last thirty years, grants have made up 75% of a student’s financial aid packet and loans made up the remaining 25%; currently, this proportion has reversed; and
WHEREAS, the statistics and facts listed above illustrate the need for an increase in WHEG in proportion to tuition increases to provide affordable education;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports the Assembly Bill 252 WHEG Education Grant Increase; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages the Joint Finance Committee to commit to funding and increasing the WHEG at an equivalent percentage to tuition increases; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business & Student Services; Members of the Joint Finance Committee; Board of Regents; Four Year Student Government Presidents; United Council; Mark Schaff, Editor in Chief, Spectator; Aaron Brewster, Editor in Chief, Flipside; State Representative Jeff Smith; State Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Ann Lapp, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.
Submitted by:
Amber Bretl, United Council Delegation Leader
& Off-Campus Senator
Emily Mattheisen, Student Life & Diversity Commission
  Director & Off-Campus Senator
Raymond French, Student Body President
February 11, 2008