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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE
GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

1 WHEREAS, according to the 2007 Open Doors Report, study
2 abroad at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is ranked 14th
3 in the nation among all master-level universities in the United
4 States in terms of the number of students participating, an
5 increase from 2005-2006 as seen in Attachment "A;" and

6 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is ranked
7 7th in the United States for duration of its study abroad
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, has
10 received an award from the Institute for International Education
11 in regard to its innovations in extending the study abroad to a
12 wide student audience; and

13 WHEREAS, 25% of the student body participates in a UW-Eau
14 Claire study abroad program (including semester, all year, and
15 summer programs); and

16 WHEREAS, students who study abroad come back with a nearly
17 100% positive satisfaction when surveyed; and

18 WHEREAS, students who choose to participate in various
19 study abroad programs receive a different variety of cultural
20 and diversity knowledge that cannot necessarily be taught at the
21 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; and

22 WHEREAS, potential employers are now seeking students who
23 have more experience with other cultures; and

24 WHEREAS, having an international experience as a
25 requirement for graduation will greatly extend the goal of
26 having a complete liberal arts experience at the University of
27 Wisconsin-Eau Claire; and

28 WHEREAS, the international experience graduation
29 requirement could be met in a variety of ways:

- 30 (a) International Internship
- 31 (b) Short term or semester study abroad
- 32 (c) International Service Learning

33 (d) International Music Tours

34 or for certain students for whom an international experience is
35 unavailable (i.e. Non-traditional students)

36 (e) an international related research project, which would
37 be earned here at Eau Claire; and

38 WHEREAS, if the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire chooses
39 to expand study abroad, the university community will see an
40 increase in diversity because the more students that are sent
41 out by the university, the more international students will be

42 enrolled. Having more students from different areas of the
43 world will greatly expand the university's diversity; and

44 WHEREAS, recognizing that this requirement will add an
45 additional cost to students, if an international experience were
46 made a requirement for graduation, students will receive a
47 variety of support to keep costs as low as possible; and

48 WHEREAS, currently many students struggle to meet financial
49 requirements of study abroad programs, even with the various
50 scholarships and grants available to them; and

51 WHEREAS, cheaper programs exist for individuals who have a
52 hard time meeting the financial requirement. These programs
53 which are in the summer are less expensive than traditional
54 semester and year-long study abroad programs; and

55 WHEREAS, with the projected increase in study abroad
56 participants, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire would be
57 able to join a Study Abroad Consortia which will give students
58 increased financial aid to study abroad and make more
59 international universities open to our study abroad program; and

60 WHEREAS, if an international experience were made a
61 requirement for graduation, stipends would be made available to
62 offset the cost of the expense. These stipends are estimated to
63 be at about \$1,000 per student enrolled; and

64 WHEREAS, opponents of study abroad cite the possibility of
65 discouraging potential students from enrolling at the University
66 of Wisconsin-Eau Claire because of this requirement; and

67 WHEREAS, Goucher College, which is a privately funded
68 institution has implemented a similar type of requirement for
69 their undergraduates. The details of their proposal seen in
70 Attachment "B;" and

71 WHEREAS, after implementing this program, Goucher College
72 experienced a substantial increase in the number of students
73 applying and an increase in the quality of the applicants in
74 terms of their average ACT scores and grade point averages; and

75 WHEREAS, many students, especially underclassmen experience
76 difficulty when scheduling classes each academic semester; and

77 WHEREAS, if study abroad is a requirement for graduation,
78 about 2,000 students would be leaving each year, which would
79 greatly free up class schedules, allowing students to have
80 better access to classes that they want or need. In addition,
81 sizes of classes at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire would
82 decrease, because of the number of people who will study abroad;
83 and

84 WHEREAS, exemptions should exist, and for the international
85 experience requirement certain students could have this
86 requirement waived including, but not limited to:

- 87 (a) Students with disabilities
- 88 (b) Non-Traditional students

89 (c) Participation in an international internship
90 other exemptions can include if students are enrolled as
91 international students or are military veterans; and

92
93 WHEREAS, the goal of the program is to greatly improve the
94 education received by students, but for these certain groups,
95 going abroad may be a hindrance to their education and should be
96 excluded from the requirement; and

97 WHEREAS, the importance of study abroad has been realized
98 by our national government when the United States Senate passed
99 a bipartisan bill in support of the study abroad as seen in
100 Attachment "C;" and

101 WHEREAS, to be fair to the students who are currently
102 enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the
103 graduation requirement for the study abroad program would be
104 implemented in 2012. Students enrolled after that year would be
105 subject to the requirement, and would know when applying to the
106 university that they would be expected to complete it;

107 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate supports
108 the adoption of a international experience graduation
109 requirement for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; and

110 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond
111 French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-
112 Stankevich, Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business &
113 Student Services; Dr. Steve Tallant, Provost/Vice Chancellor;

114 Dr. Gail Scukanec, Dean, College of Education and Human
115 Services; Dr. Thomas V. Dock, Dean, College of Business; Dr.
116 Donald Christian, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences; Dr. Elaine
117 Wendt, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences; All Members
118 of the Strategic Planning Committee; Dr. Karl Markgraf,
119 Director, Center for International Education; Ann Lapp, Interim
120 Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; and
121 Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development,
122 Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Adam Sorelle, On-Campus Senator
February 18, 2008