

Passed 29-0-0
03-03-08

51-R-30

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE TUITION PRACTICES

1 WHEREAS, in the State of Wisconsin, the price of attending
2 a University of Wisconsin System institution has increased
3 sharply, particularly within the last ten years; and

4 WHEREAS, in the same ten year period, the University of
5 Wisconsin System has seen a drastic decline in state support;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, the sharp decline in state support has put a
8 significant percentage of the formerly state supported budget on
9 the responsibility of the students and private donors; and

10 WHEREAS, in the last ten years, other funds, such as
11 grants, endowments, and private donations has risen nearly
12 exponentially in funding the University of Wisconsin System; and

13 WHEREAS, since the birth of the current University of
14 Wisconsin System for the 1972-1973 academic year, once adjusted
15 for inflation, tuition and fees combined have risen over 173%;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, since the birth of the current University of
18 Wisconsin System for the 1972-1973 academic year, once adjusted

19 for inflation, general purpose revenue (state support) has
20 decreased nearly 20%; and

21 WHEREAS, since 1978-1979, state support has declined from
22 45.8% of the total University of Wisconsin System budget to
23 24.2% in 2006-2007; and

24 WHEREAS, since the inception of the University of Wisconsin
25 System, tuition increases are directly related to the declining
26 state support of it; and

27 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2008, the President's Advisory
28 Group on Tuition and Financial Aid Policy released a draft
29 report on alternative tuition and financial aid policies for the
30 Board of Regents and Administration to consider; and

31 WHEREAS, the recommendations and alternative discussion
32 points were based on many principles, including the assumed
33 reality that this trend of declining state support will
34 continue; and

35 WHEREAS, this assumption illustrates the lack of commitment
36 on the part of the state to support public higher education; and

37 WHEREAS, this assumption also illustrates the lack of
38 commitment on the part of the University of Wisconsin System
39 Administration and Board of Regents to restoring the funds taken
40 from the University of Wisconsin System budget throughout its
41 history; and

42 WHEREAS, if this trend of defunding of the University of
43 Wisconsin System continues, tuition will continue to rise at
44 unprecedented rates, leading to the inevitable privatization of
45 public higher education in the State of Wisconsin; and

46 WHEREAS, unaffordable tuition should never hinder a citizen
47 from receiving public education; and

48 WHEREAS, education is a right; and

49 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin will only stand to gain
50 from providing affordable education; and

51 WHEREAS, the average student that graduates with debt
52 graduates with over \$21,000.00 worth of student loans; and

53 WHEREAS, significant debt should never be a method of
54 subsidizing education; and

55 WHEREAS, despite the University of Wisconsin's lower
56 tuition compared to its peer institutions, it is unacceptable
57 when a student is required to take out a significant amount of
58 loans to finance his or her education; and

59 WHEREAS, this attitude will help save the University of
60 Wisconsin System from its eventual privatization; and

61 WHEREAS, tuition increases should be directly related to
62 increases in the quality of our education and not the continued
63 decline of state support; and

64 WHEREAS, responsible tuition practices are the only way to
65 ensure accessibility for all;

66 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-
67 Eau Claire Student Senate supports responsible tuition practices
68 that take into account the quality of education provided,
69 lasting state support, and continued financial strain placed on
70 students; and

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
72 Claire Student Senate recognizes the hard work and commitment of
73 the President's Advisory Group on Tuition and Financial Aid
74 Policy; and

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
76 Claire Student Senate does not endorse further tuition
77 stratification among the four-year comprehensives because
78 differences in tuition among them should reflect the priorities
79 determined by shared governance through fees and not the
80 perceived value of the varying program strengths at each
81 institution over others; and

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
83 Claire Student Senate does not support increasing tuition to
84 match the peer median because the State of Wisconsin should
85 continue to be an example of best practices in higher education
86 and not try to rationalize the increased reliance on student
87 debt to fund higher education; and

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
89 Claire Student Senate generally supports Differential Tuition,

90 as revealed in its votes to create the first system of
91 Differential Tuition in the country during the 1990s; and

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
93 Claire Student Senate agrees with the Workgroup Report that
94 Differential Tuition should be a supplement to our education and
95 not a replacement of state support; and

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
97 Claire Student Senate does not support tuition-funded financial
98 aid in any form; and

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
100 Claire Student Senate supports programs designed to increase the
101 affordability of a college education, especially for lower-
102 income families; and

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
104 Claire Student Senate supports greater statutory authority of
105 the Board of Regents to set its expenditures and use tuition and
106 other revenue in effective ways; and

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
108 Claire Student Senate endorses financial aid policy principles
109 that resolves to keep student debt minimal; and

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
111 Claire Student Senate endorses tuition policy principles that
112 prioritize affordability above getting the most out of students;
113 and

114 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond
115 French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-
116 Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Steven Tallant, Provost/Vice
117 Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business & Student
118 Services; Representative Jeff Smith; Representative Terry
119 Moulton; Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Pat Kreitlow; Dr.
120 Kevin Reilly, President, UW System; UW System Board of Regents;
121 the Spectator; the Leader-Telegram; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair,
122 University Senate; Ann Lapp, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor,
123 Student Development & Diversity; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter,
124 Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development &
125 Diversity.

Submitted by:
Raymond French, Student Body President
Meghan Charlier, Student Body Vice President
March 3, 2008