

Passed 17-1-1
10/20/08

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION UW-EAU CLAIRE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY ACCOUNT

NUMBER 52-B-4 DATE October 13, 2008

INTRODUCED BY MICHAEL UMHOEFER, CHIEF OF STAFF, TREASURER AND OFF-
CAMPUS SENATOR

1 **WHEREAS, Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich has signed the American**
2 **College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in August 2007 to**
3 **“reduce or offset the campus’s overall input of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere**
4 **until an ideal carbon neutrality is achieved, as well as integrate sustainability**
5 **education into campus curriculums;” and**

6 **WHEREAS, the Centennial Plan has identified “seven university priorities”**
7 **called “gold arrow priorities” for this academic year, one of which is entitled**
8 **“Steward Physical Resources” and is described to “identify and prioritize campus**
9 **improvements, focusing on sustainability and community partnerships” through**
10 **“Action Projects” which include “articulate a philosophy of equitable, inclusive**
11 **physical resource stewardship” and “launch Clean Commute initiative” and**
12 **“begin to implement Presidents Commitment strategies;” and**

13 WHEREAS, the Centennial Plan identified “Stewardship and Sustainability”
14 as a key category and stated “commitment to sustainability must pervade
15 everything we do” and strives for the university to “first and foremost, preserve
16 our human and natural relationships” and recommends the university identify
17 “how we interact with our planet and its resources;” and

18 WHEREAS, the Climate Commitment Advisory Team has been created by
19 the Chancellor to “identify ways to expand participation in sustainability efforts”
20 by which associate professor of biology, Kristina Beuning, created an advanced
21 interdisciplinary study course, “UW-Eau Claire Campus Carbon Inventory” to
22 measure the carbon footprint of UW-Eau Claire; and

23 WHEREAS, the Carbon Inventory was previewed to the Climate
24 Commitment Advisory Team in a presentation last spring which made
25 recommendations on how to lower the carbon impact of categories including
26 “Water and Energy Conservation,” “Transportation Issues,” and “Food and
27 Waste;” and

28 WHEREAS, the official publication will be unveiled on October 22nd, 2008;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Kate Hale has been appointed by Chancellor Brian Levin-
31 Stankevich to be UW-Eau Claire’s Campus Sustainability Fellow as part of the
32 Strategic Plan to “identify ways to expand participation in sustainability efforts”
33 and “to coordinate and support sustainability efforts currently operating on
34 campus and assist in the development of new efforts;” and

35 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation has created the Campus

36 Sustainability Initiatives Fund to “help advance the university’s green efforts”
37 and “seeks funding to support the sustainability efforts being developed on
38 campus;” and

39 WHEREAS, the “Student Senate Survey of 2008,” compiled by Ray French,
40 asked the question “What top five things should Student Senate work on” and
41 concluded that 67% of the students polled said “becoming a greener campus,”
42 and also asked “How important are environmental issues to you” and concluded
43 that 83% of students claim that environmental issues are important to very
44 important; and

45 WHEREAS, United Council passed a resolution titled “Sustainability
46 Reserve Resolution” (EV 0607-02) at the June 6th, 2007 General Assembly which
47 “encourages all member campuses to look into creating a ‘sustainability reserve’
48 for their campus” and explains “the money in the ‘sustainability reserve’ is to be
49 solely for sustainability projects within the campus;” and

50 WHEREAS, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Green Bay and UW-Stevens
51 Point have all passed sustainability funds to financially support environmental
52 efforts on campus by raising student fees; and

53 WHEREAS, Student Senate has not financially supported the sustainability
54 efforts on campus even though there is overwhelming student support;

55 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that upon passage of this bill UW-Eau
56 Claire Student Senate authorizes the referendum question on Attachment “A” to
57 be put to an online vote to take place on Thursday, November 20th, 2008 from
58 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to ask the student body if they approve paying ten dollars a

59 semester through student fees to go into a sustainability reserve entitled “UW-
60 Eau Claire Environmental Responsibility Account;” and

61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that upon passage the student fee go into
62 effect immediately; and

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the money gathered by the UW-Eau Claire
64 Environmental Responsibility Account accumulate for one academic year before
65 any spending occurs; and

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the one year hold on spending, a
67 subcommittee or commission be established by and under the authority of
68 Student Senate to distribute the monies; and

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during the one year hold on spending, a
70 committee be established to distribute the monies to environmental causes on
71 campus and the committee must include two members of administration, two
72 members of faculty and five students; and

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the committee plan and prepare outlines
74 for financing through the account that would follow the guidelines of grant
75 proposals as this would allow for faculty-student projects, courses and capstone
76 courses to be designed around environmental projects to further our goal of
77 innovative learning on campus; and

78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that funding also be available to student
79 organizations that cooperate with one or more other student organizations to
80 implement other environmental projects and increase student involvement and

81 diversity among student organizations; and

82 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that upon passage, President Lauer transmit a
83 copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Marty Wood,
84 Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. V. Thomas Dock, Acting Vice Chancellor for
85 Administration, Facilities & Finance; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor for Student
86 Affairs; Dr. Kate Hale, Assistant Professor, English Department; Dr. Kristina
87 Beuning, Associate Professor, Biology Department; Dave Gessner, Director,
88 Business Services; The Spectator; The Leader-Telegram; RHA, Dr. Joe Hupy,
89 Assistant Professor, Geography/Anthropology Department; Dr. Crispin Pierce,
90 Assistant Professor, Public Health Professions; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter,
91 Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.

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104 **REFERENDUM QUESTION:**

105 Do you, the students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, approve an
106 increase of Student Fees of \$10 per semester to go into an environmental
107 sustainability reserve entitled "UW-Eau Claire Environmental Responsibility
108 Account?" This account would be controlled by student majority committee to
109 distribute funding for environmental causes on campus through faculty-student
110 projects, courses, capstones and allow for student organizations to team up with
111 another student organization to implement environmental projects across
112 campus.

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114 **Answer: Yes/No**

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