WHEREAS, there is currently no graduation pledge for students to partake in during the graduation ceremony; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion would provide students with the option of pledging to be more environmentally and socially conscious in any organization they associate themselves with in the future; and

WHEREAS, this action would be a progressive step within the University, the Eau Claire Community, the University of Wisconsin System, and the State of Wisconsin towards becoming more conscious of our actions and behaviors' effects; and

WHEREAS, this would allow the University to be the first institution in the state of Wisconsin that has incorporated an environmental and socially conscious graduation pledge into the graduation ceremony; and

WHEREAS, enacting this resolution would be in the spirit of the University's sustainability initiatives;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate supports a voluntary environmental and socially conscious graduation pledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate leadership will work together with the University’s administration and the supporters of this pledge’s inclusion to ensure its placement in the graduation ceremony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages students to partake in the pledge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate will support finding means of funding the necessary supplies for the graduation pledge; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Tim Lauer transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Marty Wood, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. V. Thomas Dock, Acting Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; The Spectator; Jennifer Brockpahler, Commencement Coordinator; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.

SUBMITTED BY:
Dylan Jambrek, Off-Campus Senator
November 17, 2008
The Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility states:

"I pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organization for which I work."

Students may define for themselves what it means to be "socially and environmentally responsible."

Instituting the Pledge gets at the heart of a good education and a good educational institution. It can benefit society as a whole. Not only does it remind students of the ethical implications of the knowledge and training they received, but it can help lead to a socially conscious citizenry and a better world. In a sense then, the Pledge operates at three levels: students making choices about their employment; schools educating about values and citizenship, rather than only knowledge and skills; and the workplace and society being concerned about more than just the bottom line.

Soon to be graduates receive an explanatory letter and a wallet-size card that states the Pledge. Typically, 50 percent of students make the commitment, and they and supportive faculty wear green ribbons during commencement, and the Pledge appears in the printed program.