WHEREAS, many students statewide who have qualified for financial aid but won’t be receiving it this year through the Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) by filling out the FAFSA; and

WHEREAS, overall there are 185 students at Eau Claire alone who qualified for an average of $2427 but because of budget shortfalls will received $0 for this academic year; and

WHEREAS, throughout the entire UW there are 3516 students on the wait list who qualify for an average of $2403 but will receive nothing this year; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Cory Mason has circulated legislation titled the “Wisconsin Jobs Initiative,” which among other things would increase funding for the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant; and

WHEREAS, this increase in funding over the next two years would increase by approximately $46.5 million, which would fully cover the grants for the 25,000 students who are expected to qualify for the grant in the next two years but would otherwise
not receive any financial aid through the WHEG due to funding shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, United Council is strongly supporting any legislation that would allow HEAB to fully fund the WHEG and distribute it to all students who have qualified due to their demonstrated financial need;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports the Wisconsin Jobs Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages students to contact their legislators and remind them of the need for Wisconsin’s government to prioritize financial aid funding, particularly during such economic downturns as the one we are currently in; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Umhoefer transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Finance; Michael Moscicke, Government Relations Director, United Council; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office; Kirstin Dexter, State Representative; Jeff Smith, State Representative; Kathleen Vinehout, State Senator; Pat Kreitlow, State Senator; and Governor Jim Doyle.
SUBMITTED BY:
Janna Caspersen, United Council Delegation Leader
and On-Campus Senator
October 12, 2009