WHEREAS, Differential Tuition was implemented on a campus wide level at UW-Eau Claire in academic year 1997-1998; and
WHEREAS, Differential Tuition was set at $100 per academic year from its introduction until the academic year 2003-2004; and
WHEREAS, Differential Tuition was modified to include an annual increase of 4.5% starting in academic year 2003-2004; and
WHEREAS, the Differential Tuition level for academic year 2009-2010 is $163.00; and
WHEREAS, Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich introduced the Blugold Commitment to the university in his “State of the University” speech in late August, 2009; and
WHEREAS, the Blugold Commitment is a proposal to increase Differential Tuition; and
WHEREAS, the UW-System Board of Regents’ policy Section 32.7 “Student Involvement in Differential Tuition Initiatives” outlines the following requirements for students and student government:
1. Students will be advised through their student government organizations of all planned differential tuition initiatives before proposals are submitted to the Board of Regents;

2. To the extent possible, UW-System institutions will consult with students directly affected by the proposed Differential Tuition initiative;

3. Differential Tuition initiative proposals presented to the Board of Regents will include a section on the student consultation process and outcome;

4. The Chancellor of the UW-System institution, in consultation with the President of the UW-System, will make the final determination whether a Differential Tuition initiative is submitted to the Board of Regents for approval; student approval is not a requirement for the initiative to be forwarded to the Board of Regents;

5. Spending decisions related to the funds generated by the Differential Tuition are ultimately the responsibility of the Chancellor of the UW-System institution as indicated in Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(3); and

WHEREAS, a campus wide student survey was sent to measure students’ opinion on the Blugold Commitment; and

WHEREAS, 3,672 took the Blugold Commitment survey;

WHEREAS, 69% of the students who completed the survey did not support the Blugold Commitment;

WHEREAS, the highest aspect why students did not support the Blugold Commitment was the size of the tuition increase;

WHEREAS, the second highest aspect why students did not support the Blugold Commitment was the size of the financial aid;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate support the objectives of the Blugold Commitment; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate support the Blugold Commitment but not in its current form of an increase of $1,500; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in response to the Blugold Commitment survey results the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate support an increase of Differential Tuition entitled the Blugold Commitment of $1,200; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate support the Differential Tuition increase entitled the Blugold Commitment to go towards the improvement of academic services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate support up to 40% of the Differential Tuition increase entitled the Blugold Commitment will be appropriated for financial assistance; 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; Mary Jane Brukardt, Special Assistant for Strategic Planning; Dr. Robert Hooper, Chair, Geology Department; Kathleen Sahlhoff, Director, Financial Aid; Stephanie Jamelske, Academic Affairs Budget Officer, Academic Affairs; Dr. Michael Wick, Vice Provost,
Academic Affairs; Dr. Susan Turell, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.

SUBMITTED BY:
Michael Umhoefer, Student Body President
December 7, 2009