WHEREAS, illegal downloading of copyrighted media is a growing problem on university campuses; and

WHEREAS, media representatives such as the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) often target university students in crackdowns on illegal downloading; and

WHEREAS, the problem has become so severe that even the adult film industry has begun tracking students who obtain copyrighted material illegally; and

WHEREAS, students who upload material illegally are often subject to criminal penalties and fines; and

WHEREAS, according to the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, institutions of higher education must “offer, ‘to the extent practicable’, alternatives to illegal downloading”; and

WHEREAS, the non-profit higher education technology organization Educause has stated that universities must explicitly inform students that unauthorized use of copyrighted material is illegal; and
WHEREAS, Educause also recommends providing students with information on legal alternatives to the illegal use of copyrighted material; and

WHEREAS, the Information Technology Commission recommends the creation of an Copyright Compliance Task Force in order to comply with national guidelines for copyright compliance;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports the creation of a Copyright Compliance Task Force under the supervision of the Information Technology Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Task Force will be to:

1. Create a structured process for informing students of the laws regarding copyrighted content;
2. Create a structured process for informing students of the alternatives to illegal downloading;
3. Annually evaluate UW-Eau Claire’s efforts to prevent illegal downloading;
4. Annually report on UW-Eau Claire’s efforts to prevent illegal downloading as well as steps taken to stop network-detected illegal downloading; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will be comprised of student and staff members of the Information Technology Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force will also welcome the participation of members of the university administration involved in student issues regarding illegal downloading; 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; Craig Mey, Director, Learning & Technology Services; Carol Accola, Associate Director, Learning & Technology Services; John Pollitz, Director, Library; Kevin LaVoy, Learning & Technology Services; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.

SUBMITTED BY:
Jacob Kampen, Information Technology Commission Director and On-Campus Senator
February 8, 2010