

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF FIRST AMENDMENT FREE FOOD FESTIVAL

1 WHEREAS, The FIRST AMENDMENT FREE FOOD FESTIVAL will be
2 initiated on the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus by
3 the Society of Professional Journalists-UWEC Chapter on
4 Wednesday, April 28, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and

5 WHEREAS, the festival is the first UW-Eau Claire campus-
6 wide event designed to teach students, faculty and community
7 members what it is like to live in a society where there are no
8 First Amendment rights; and

9 WHEREAS, in exchange for a lunch, students will trade in
10 their rights to freedom of religion, speech, the press, assembly
11 and the right to petition the government for a redress of
12 grievances by entering a "foreign" country in a roped-off zone
13 where the First Amendment no longer exists; and

14 WHEREAS, in addition to losing their First Amendment rights
15 while they eat, students will be surrounded by performances by
16 fellow students depicting the loss of freedom and rights; and

17 WHEREAS, the roped-off zone located in the campus mall will
18 be called, "The People's Republic of the Socialist State of the
19 Kingdom of UW-Eau Claire;" and

20 WHEREAS, as a part of this foreign country, participants
21 will be given passports stating the rights they are losing, and
22 by signing this passport, as a contract, will agree to abide by
23 the laws of the land; and

24 WHEREAS, the event originated at Florida Atlantic
25 University in September 2006. Several other universities have
26 had success with the event including Pacific Lutheran
27 University, University of Miami, Grand Rapids Community, and
28 University of Baltimore; and

29 WHEREAS, short term objectives are to illustrate the loss
30 of First Amendment rights and interactively involve student
31 organizations in the greater effort; and

32 WHEREAS, it is hoped that this becomes an annual SPJ-
33 sponsored event in collaboration with the Student Senate and
34 several other organizations on campus; and

35 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire FIRST AMENDMENT FREE FOOD
36 FESTIVAL is sponsored by the Society of Professional
37 Journalists-UWEC Chapter and co-sponsored by: UW-Eau Claire
38 Dean of Students Office, University Activities Commission,
39 Volume One, The Spectator, the Flip Side, Studio 105, Photo Club
40 and Sodexho; and

41 WHEREAS, the FIRST AMENDMENT FREE FOOD FESTIVAL at other
42 universities, including the University of Southern Indiana has
43 been supported by their University Student Senate, who will be
44 hosting their own festival on March 18 of this year;

45 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate support
46 the First Amendment Free Food Festival; and

47 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President
48 Umhoefer transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-
49 Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice
50 Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs;
51 Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner,
52 Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Finance; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter,
53 Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.

SUBMITTED BY:

Davendra Raj, Student Life & Diversity Commission Director
and Off-Campus Senator
Student Life & Diversity Commission
April 12, 2010