

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE  
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF A PARENTAL NOTIFICATION FOR NON-ACADEMIC  
MISCONDUCT POLICY

1           WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire does not  
2 currently have a policy in place for the parental notification  
3 of students who are placed on University probation as a result  
4 of non-academic misconduct; and

5           WHEREAS, intervention strategies serve as useful tools in  
6 helping students before any permanently destructive behaviors or  
7 consequences can occur; and

8           WHEREAS, academic research routinely indicates parental  
9 notification proves to be one of the most impactful methods to  
10 decrease high risk behavior with alcohol and drugs; and

11           WHEREAS, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
12 (FERPA) allows for postsecondary institutions to allow parents to  
13 have access to their child's education records, without the  
14 student's consent, in the following circumstances: the student  
15 is a dependent for Federal income tax purposes (§99.31(a)(8);  
16 the disclosure is in connection with a health or safety  
17 emergency under the conditions specified in §99.36 (i.e. if

18 knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health  
19 or safety of the student or other individuals (§99.31(a)(10));  
20 and the student has violated any Federal, State or local law, or  
21 any rule or policy of the institution, governing the use or  
22 possession of alcohol or a controlled substance, if the  
23 institution determines that the student has committed a  
24 disciplinary violation regarding that use of possession and the  
25 student is under 21 at the time of the disclosure  
26 (§99.31(a)(15); and

27 WHEREAS, in accordance with FERPA, the University may  
28 legally contact parents/guardians regarding the aforementioned  
29 legal or policy violations with or without such a governing  
30 policy in place; and

31 WHEREAS, most University of Wisconsin System schools  
32 already have parental notification policies; and

33 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire's Housing and Residence Life already  
34 notifies parents of students who improperly or illegally use  
35 alcohol or drugs;

36 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Student Senate support the  
37 implementation of the Parental Notification for Non-Academic  
38 Misconduct Policy seen in Attachment "A"; and

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chancellor of UW-Eau Claire  
40 work with the Dean of Students Office to institute and implement  
41 a parental notification policy for students who have been put on  
42 University probation for non-academic misconduct; and

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

SUBMITTED BY:  
Sarah Tweedale, Student Services Commission Director  
and On-Campus Senator  
April 26, 2010

## Attachment "A"

### Guiding Principle

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the parental involvement guidelines allow University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire staff members from the Dean of Students Office to contact and notify parents/guardians of certain serious behaviors/incidents involving their students who are under 21 years of age or listed as a dependent of the parent/guardian if the behaviors/incidents results in the student being placed on University probation.

While staff will always regard students as autonomous adults and work with them in a developmentally-appropriate manner when addressing behavioral concerns resulting in the student being placed on University probation, parents/guardians can often influence students differently than staff. Therefore, these guidelines are intended to provide the opportunity to occasionally partner with parents/guardians in order to assist students who may be struggling with alcohol/drug abuse, mental health disorders, or safety-related concerns when such partnership would have educational and health-related benefit to the student.

### Process

In cases when staff are made aware of applicable incidents as listed below and staff in their professional judgment determine that parental involvement would have educational or health benefit to the student, the Dean of Students Office will\* contact parents/guardians of students when a student is placed on University probation after one or more of the following conditions applies:

- Only when there is an alcohol or other drug violation that results in a sanction of University probation, or with previous signed consent of the student in question; or
- When a student's behavior poses a serious risk to the health, safety or well-being of themselves or staff members have tangible evidence that a student's behavior would pose said risk. Specific examples would include;
  - When an underage student is transported to a detox facility or hospital for an overdose of alcohol or other drugs; or
  - When a student has attempted suicide or has engaged in suicidal demonstrations/ideation.

If one or more of the above criteria are met, staff will meet with the student and let the student know of the plan to contact their parents/guardians. If the staff member, after consulting with a supervisor, determines that parents/guardians involvement may help in abatement of the concerning behavior, the student shall be encouraged to make the initial contact with the parent or guardian. The staff member would then follow up with a phone call, or in some cases, a letter to the parents/guardians. This contact would briefly describe the situation and ask for assistance in redirecting the student to more constructive or healthful behaviors. Should a student decide to ignore our requests for a meeting, notification will be sent to the student informing them of our intent to involve their parents or guardians and the parents/guardians will subsequently be contacted.

### Appeal Right

Students have the right to appeal the decision to notify their parents within two business days of meeting with the Dean of Students Office. This appeal should be made in writing to the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

*\*There may be circumstances where parental notification may be impossible or inappropriate due to unusual or extenuating personal or family circumstances. Students will be afforded the opportunity to demonstrate that notification would be counterproductive or would present a danger to the student's well-being.*