WHEREAS, the end of the footbridge currently has the bike lane on the same side as the stairs; and

WHEREAS, the end of the footbridge currently has the walking lane on the same side as the bike ramp; and

WHEREAS, for many years students have been concerned about the issue of cross traffic at the end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, many students walking have had collisions with bikers in the area of cross traffic at the end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, students have been told the reason for the footbridge being set up the previously mentioned way is because of University vehicles coming up the bike ramp and needing to make a wide turn into the bike lane; and

WHEREAS, the amount of time students and bikers are caught in cross traffic at the end of the footbridge greatly outweighs the amount of time a University vehicle comes across the footbridge; and
WHEREAS, although switching the lanes would cause a small amount of cross traffic at the staircase near Haas, those stairs are much less traveled than the ones on the other end of the footbridge and that cross traffic is in direct sight of the students and easier to avoid rather than coming at them from behind at the other end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, if the bike lane and walking lane were switched, University vehicles could just as easily make a wide turn into the walking lane, and then change lanes into the bike lane; and

WHEREAS, if the bike lane and walking lane were switched, the walking lane would be on the side of the stairs and the bike lane would be on the side of the bike ramp at the end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, although switching the lanes may create some congestion and collisions at the other end of the footbridge near the Haas Fine Arts building, that area is much more open with many different destinations for both bikers and walkers as opposed to the direct area of cross traffic with only one way for walkers to go and one way for bikers to go at the other end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, switching the bike lane and walking lane would not only be more logical, but cause less cross traffic and possible collisions at the end of the footbridge; and

WHEREAS, this is an important safety issue for the students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate recognizes the current safety concerns with the foot and bike traffic on the footbridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate continue to explore options to make the footbridge safer for both pedestrians and bikers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Jambrek transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Brian Carlisle, Dean of Students; Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Terry Classen, Director, Facilities Management; Michael Rindo, Executive Director, University Communications; and Ricardo Gonzales, Campus Facilities Planner.

SUBMITTED BY:
Chrissy Duszynski, Student Services Commission Director and Off-Campus Senator
Student Services Commission
October 5, 2010