WHEREAS, increased accessibility to voting procedures serves to benefit not only college students living away from home, but all state of Wisconsin residents at large; and

WHEREAS, student engagement in the elections process is essential to becoming a well-rounded citizen through the college experience; and

WHEREAS, the World Wide Web is a useful and securable communication tool heavily employed by today’s students, and is successfully used for identity-sensitive procedures such as opening a bank account or changing address through the DMV or USPS; and

WHEREAS, the process of data entry, including that of paper voter registration material, is plagued with labor costs and risk of inaccuracy; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of an online voter registration system integrated with the state driver license database has been popular and successful in Arizona, Washington, and Kansas; and
WHEREAS, the voting process itself would remain unchanged, requiring the in-person completion of a physical ballot at a designated polling location;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire support provisions to implement an online voter registration system, in hopes that it will increase student accessibility to the voter registration process, especially for those wishing to register in their home municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire urge immediate legislative action; 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; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office; Senator Russ Feingold; Senator Herb Kohl; Representative Ron Kind; Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Pat Kreitlow; Representative Kristen Dexter; Representative Jeff Smith; United Council of UW Students; Eau Claire County Board; and UW System Student Government Presidents.