UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN OPPOSITION TO SB 107

WHEREAS, currently municipalities have the authority to set
their own housing and tenant laws in the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, municipalities currently have this authority in
order to cater to unique circumstances that exist in individual
communities; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Senate Bill 107 will effectively
preempt all municipal housing and tenant laws in the State of
Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, SB 107 will prohibit local governments from
enacting any ordinance that limits a landlord from showing or
entering into a rental agreement for a residential rental
property with a perspective tenant, while the current tenant is
living there; and

WHEREAS, SB 107 will prohibit local governments from
enacting ordinances that limit a landlord’s ability to obtain
and use personal information from tenants or prospective
tenants, including income and source of income, occupation,
court records, rental history, and credit information; and
WHEREAS, students would be disproportionately affected by the possible need for a full time occupation, extensive credit history or steady flow of non-financial aid income in order to rent; and

WHEREAS, landlords will be able to deny rental applications on the sole basis of an applicant’s inability to provide a social security number; and

WHEREAS, international students who do not have social security numbers, could be disproportionately affected by this measure; and

WHEREAS, SB 107 will allow landlords the ability to start showing a residence the first week after a student moves in, which will effectively take away a student’s opportunity to renew their lease; and

WHEREAS, under SB 107 landlords will only have to give 12-hour notice to tenants before showing a residence; and

WHEREAS, in the pursuance of the standardization of housing law across the State the Legislature is limiting all students, and specifically those students at UW-Eau Claire access to affordable housing by taking away invaluable protections that municipalities bestowed upon student renters; and

WHEREAS, students should have the ability to work with municipalities and landlords in order to find solutions that
work for everyone instead of being restricted by a statewide blanket law; and

WHEREAS, this would allow for individual campuses, student governments and municipalities to cater residential policies towards the individual needs of their respective student bodies; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire relies on a strong working relationship with the City of Eau Claire and its many landlords in order to provide adequate off-campus housing for the student population, especially in light of very limited on-campus housing options;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate of UW-Eau Claire opposes the passage of Wisconsin State Senate Bill 107; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages the Wisconsin Assembly to vote SB 107 down in order to protect student renters at UW-Eau Claire, and across the State; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent 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; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Finance; Representative Robin Vos; Representative Kathleen Bernier; Representative Garey
Representative Mark Honadel; Representative Andre Jacque; Representative Dean Knudson; Representative Daniel LeMahieu; Representative Jeffrey Mursau; Representative Richard Spanbauer; Representative Pat Strachota; Representative Jim Steineke; Representative Michelle Litjens; Representative Scott Suder; Representative Jeff Fitzgerald; Representative Bill Kramer; Representative Dan Knodl; Representative Joan Ballweg; Representative John Murtha; Representative Mary Williams; Representative Peter Barca; Representative Donna Seidel; Representative Keida Helen Roys; Representative Fred Clark; Representative Robert Turner; Representative Warren Petryk; Representative Tom Larson; State Senator Kathleen Vinehout; State Senator Terry Moulton; and Governor Scott Walker.

SUBMITTED BY:
Mark Morgan, Student Body Vice President
Corydon Fish, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director and Off-Campus Senator
October 31, 2011