UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION


WHEREAS, the current height of the Summit Avenue Bridge railing is 34 inches; and

WHEREAS, the current level of the bridge railing is below waist-level for the average adult; and

WHEREAS, the current height of the bridge railing makes it difficult to safely cross the bridge on a bike; and

WHEREAS, a significant student and staff population resides in the Third Ward; and

WHEREAS, this student and staff population gains access to the campus, Water Street, and student housing areas by crossing the Summit Avenue Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the sidewalk on the Summit Avenue Bridge is narrow, forcing pedestrians to walk near to the railing; and

WHEREAS, the water level below this bridge is shallow causing injury or death to individuals who fall off; and

WHEREAS, the Summit Avenue Bridge is in extremely close proximity to many popular bars; and
WHEREAS, the Summit Avenue Bridge provides an even greater safety hazard for those wishing to cross the bridge inebriated; and

WHEREAS, the Summit Avenue Bridge also provides a great safety hazard for disabled individuals wishing to cross the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Summit Avenue Bridge is considered a state highway and thereby the responsibility of the State of Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has planned to reconstruct the bridge and turn over ownership to the City of Eau Claire in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire Student Senate believes that failing to modify or re-build the bridge as soon as possible could be detrimental to the health and safety of individuals using the bridge;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire Student Senate urges the City of Eau Claire to move the planned date of reconstruction of the bridge to be as soon as possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon the Summit Avenue Bridge’s reconstruction, the railings are constructed to a
height that provides a sufficient barrier for pedestrians and
bicyclists utilizing the bridge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-Eau
Claire Student Senate continues to work with the City of Eau
Claire and the state of Wisconsin to move the planned date of
reconstruction of the bridge; 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; Mike Rindo, Assistant Chancellor for
Facilities/Executive Director, University Communications; The
Spectator; The Leader-Telegram; WEAU, WQOW; Dr. Susan Harrison,
Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor,
Budget & Finance; the Wisconsin Department of Transportation;
Kerry Kincaid, David Duax, Larry Balow, David Klinkhammer, Dana
J. Wachs, Kathy Mitchell, Mark A. Olson, Bob Von Haden, Jackie
Pavelski, Andrew Weerthmann, Thomas T. Vue and the City of Eau
Claire.

SUBMITTED BY:
Stephanie Mabrey, Student Services Commission
Director and Off-Campus Senator
Student Services Commission
Corydon Fish, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director
and Off-Campus Senator
Matthew Sias, Off-Campus Senator
March 26, 2012