WHEREAS, after numerous comments and complaints from members of the student body regarding the structure and behavior of the United Council of UW Students, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire executive team began a month-long process of research and evaluation: and
WHEREAS, the findings of the process were organized and published in an “Executive White Paper on United Council of UW Students” as well as an “United Council of UW Students Investment Review” at the beginning of fall semester; and

WHEREAS, the approach behind these documents was to evaluate as objectively as possible the strengths and areas of improvement in United Council, a purposefully new approach to the issue of UW-Eau Claire Student Senate’s relationship with the organization; and

WHEREAS, these documents were endorsed by an overwhelming majority in the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate and distributed to United Council with an explicit expectation of timely response; and

WHEREAS, an outline of a detailed presentation on the United Council White Paper Response by Vice President Martin has been included in Attachment A; and

WHEREAS, despite nearly three months, many emails, personal conversations with top United Council leadership, and vocalization at a comprehensive caucus meeting, no action appeared to have been taken on the White Paper or Investment Review; and

WHEREAS, in every above instance United Council representatives promised to place an in-depth discussion of the White Paper on the agenda of their next board meeting; and

WHEREAS, significant discussion of the White Paper at a United Council
board meeting never occurred; and

WHEREAS, recognizing a total lack of progress, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate unanimously passed the “Resolution in Favor of United Council Immediately Formatting a Formal Response to the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate White Paper and Investment Review;” and

WHEREAS, the resolution deemed the existing lack of response “unacceptable;” and

WHEREAS, the President of United Council personally attended a following Senate meeting and pledged to comply with the resolution’s request that UC place an “in-depth discussion of the UW-Eau Claire White Paper on the agenda for their next board meeting” as well as go “through the White Paper point by point and agree to disagree with each point with explanation;” and

WHEREAS, at a following United Council board meeting, a committee was commissioned with the express purpose of complying with this request with an explicit deadline of the start of UW-Eau Claire’s second semester; and

WHEREAS, in preparation for evaluation of response at the committed deadline, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate unanimously voted to establish the United Council Response Evaluation Committee with the express purpose of formulating UW-Eau Claire’s response to United Council’s submission; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire’s second semester commenced January 22, 2013 with no submission of a formal response to the White Paper nor communication of its status; and
WHEREAS, in conversations between professional lobbying organizations of comparable mission both locally and nationally and the Chair of UW-Eau Claire’s Response Committee, these lobbying organizations termed United Council’s lack of response “extremely extraordinary;” and

WHEREAS, this lack of response is in direct violation of personal and statuary pledges from United Council’s senior staff and Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, the only documentation in UW-Eau Claire Student Senate’s possession is a draft response passed around a room at a UC board meeting; and

WHEREAS, again recognizing a lack of any visible progress in the over 141 days since the White Paper’s publishing, the United Council Response Evaluation Committee voted unanimously to recognize the draft response; and

WHEREAS, the Committee voted unanimously to recognize this draft regardless of future response submissions from United Council with the stipulation that the Committee Chair shall brief the Senate on any changes between the recognized draft response and future submissions United Council may provide; and

WHEREAS, after much conversation regarding United Council’s lack of response, as well as the troubling and self-contradictory content of United Council’s recognized draft, the Committee expressed disapproval of paying roughly $35,000 in membership dues to United Council; and

WHEREAS, the Committee voiced that continued payments to support United Council would be a violation of Student Senate’s commitment to wisely
Whereas, Regent policy 30-4 outlines that membership in United Council, and by extension payment of United Council’s mandatory refundable fee (MRF), is initiated by an affirmative vote in a campus-wide referenda and ended through the same process; and

Whereas, recognizing United Council’s commitment of staff time, financing, and promotional materials during the most recent UW-Eau Claire campus referenda on United Council membership as well as a confirmation of utilizing tactics to “increase voter turnout” in said referenda in the draft response, the Committee did not see a referenda as a feasible means to accurately gauge student opinion on this issue; and

Whereas, Wisconsin State Statute 36.09(5) states that students of each institution or campus “shall have the right to organize themselves in a manner they determine and to select their representatives to participate in institutional governance;” and

Whereas, the duly elected representatives of the UW-Eau Claire student body seated on the Committee voted 8-0-0 to no longer recognize United Council of UW Students as official representatives of UW-Eau Claire students to other UW campuses, campus and UW System administration, or legislative officials; and

Whereas, Section 11.02(d) of the Student Senate Bylaws provide that “All non-constitutional referenda may only be undone or rejected by an affirmative vote of 22 voting members of the Student Senate;” and
WHEREAS, the United Council Response Committee voted 8-0-0 in favor of officially adjusting UW-Eau Claire’s formal position regarding United Council from that established by the most recent campus referenda;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that it is the official opinion of the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire that the students of UW-Eau Claire are no longer officially affiliated with the United Council of UW Students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire welcomes continued conversation with leadership of the United Council of UW Students in hopes of resolving standing issues and resumption of a productive partnership; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Gilles Bousquet, Interim Chancellor, Dr. Patricia Kline, 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; UW System President Kevin Reilly and his staff; Board of Regents; All Presidents & Vice Presidents of the Student Governments of the UW System; UW System Student Representatives; Courtney Morse, United Council Executive Director; United Council President, Vice President and Secretary; and all United Council Board of Directors.