UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION _______ ALLOCATION FOR NEW DAVIES WINDSOURCE RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT PURCHASE

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NUMBER  56-B-3  DATE _______April 30, 2012_______

INTRODUCED BY _______BRITTANY WHITED, STUDENT OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR; ELEIZABETH SORENSON, OFF-CAMPUS SENATOR; AND GREGORY NELSON, OFF-CAMPUS SENATOR

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to becoming more environmentally sustainable and becoming carbon neutral; and

WHEREAS, Facilities Management and Planning is committed to the achieving carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the Xcel Energy offers a voluntary Renewable Energy Credit purchasing program called Windsource allowing for the purchase of renewable energy resources which can further the university’s goal toward carbon neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the Student Office of Sustainability is committed to bringing renewable energy resources to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; and
WHEREAS, the projected kWh usage of the new Davies Student Center is 1,107,572 kWh annually; and

WHEREAS, UW-System already purchases 9.93% renewable energy for UW-Eau Claire; however this percentage was supposed to increase to 20% by 2011 under Wisconsin Act 141 directing “the DOA to set goals for the use of renewable energy by the six state agencies that consume the great majority of electricity purchased by the state; the individual agency goals shall be designed to accomplish the overall goal that, by the end of 2007, 10% of the electricity purchased by the state be derived from renewable resources and, by the end of 2011, 20% be derived from renewable resources;” and

WHEREAS, no reports have been released by the DOA or UW-System indicating this 20% goal has been met; and

WHEREAS, purchasing 997,590 kWh of renewable energy credits from Windsource at $0.0137 per kWh or 90.07% of the projected energy usage of the new Davies Student Center, will allow for 100% of the building to be renewable equivalent; and

WHEREAS, the cost of the Windsource purchase will be added to the monthly University Center’s utility bill from Xcel Energy to be reimbursed from the Student Office of Sustainability’s Environmental Responsibility account; and

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy receives no profit from Windsource purchases; and

WHEREAS, Xcel Energy’s Windsource Program requires a one year contract; and

WHEREAS, the annual Windsource Program contract will be evaluated and
passed each year by the Student Office of Sustainability and Student Senate, adjusting for the necessary amount of RECs to purchase based on the amount purchased by UW-System and the actual kWh usage numbers of the building; and

WHEREAS, the New Davies Building’s grand opening is in September during Homecoming; and

WHEREAS, the Windsourse Program launch will be during the new Davies Student Center grand opening; and

WHEREAS, adequate signage, presentations, and marketing will be developed in collaboration with Xcel Energy and University Centers to display the 100% renewable nature of the New Davies Building at the grand opening;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate approves the allocation of $13,666.98 from the Student Office of Sustainability's 2012-2013 Environmental Responsibility Account for the purchase of 997,590 kWh of renewable energy credits from Xcel Energy's Windsourse Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate approves entering into a one year contract with Xcel Energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this allocation proposal is outlined in more detail in Attachment “A;” and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Rynish transmit a copy of this bill 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; Mark Reeves, Director, Budget & Finance; Michael Traynor, Building & Grounds, Facilities Management;
Terry Classen, Director, Facilities Management; Lynn Peterson, Buildings & Grounds, Facilities Management; Dave Osborn, Manager, DOA Sustainability Program; Dr. James Boulter, Associate Professor, Chemistry Department; James Hanke, Economic Development and Community Outreach Manager, Xcel Energy; Steve Mudd, Product Manager, Windsourse, Xcel Energy; and Christopher Dierker, Market Manager, Xcel Energy.