UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF A TUITION FREEZE

WHEREAS, the President of the University of Wisconsin System proposed a tuition increase for the 2012-2013 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents voted 17-1 to increase tuition for all 26 University of Wisconsin schools trying to help alleviate state budget cuts for the 2012-2013 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the costs of tuition has increased within the University of Wisconsin System to the previous legal maximum, 5.5%, for the sixth consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013-2014 academic year the state provides 15% of the University of Wisconsin System’s funding; and

WHEREAS, the federal government spending on student financial aid will not be increased during the 2012 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, tuition would increase by $628 per student for the 2012-2013 academic year at the University of Wisconsin—Eau Claire; and
WHEREAS, as of December 14, 2012, Governor Scott Walker discussed a possible tuition freeze in an effort to keep tuitions affordable throughout the University of Wisconsin System; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin System Mission Statement states that it is devoted to the “instruction, research, extended training, and public service designed to educate people and improve the human condition;” and

WHEREAS, consistent increases in the cost of tuition will force a portion of students out of college, or deter students from attending college after high school; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the University of Wisconsin System cannot be fulfilled to its potential if students are being forced out of higher education due to the continuous rise in tuition; and

WHEREAS, repeated increases in tuition will mean the students will have to pay more initially or graduate with more debt; and

WHEREAS, the accumulated debt that the students will have to pay is detrimental to the future economic success of the students and, by extension, the state;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the cost of tuition cannot continue to face a state of accession if there is to be a
consistent model of growth in student enrollment and development
within the University of Wisconsin System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UW-Eau Claire Student Senate
understands that cuts are being placed on the UW System and
increased tuition is a way to offset those cuts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the face of shrinking state
funding, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate understands the need
for difficult programmatic cuts, however, to compensate for
these cuts by tuition increases is unsustainable; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student
Senate would strongly support Governor Walker pursue a tuition
freeze, or a similar cap, of the University of Wisconsin System
tuition increase; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage a copy of this
resolution be sent to Dr. Gilles Bousquet, Interim 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; UW System President Kevin Reilly;
Board of Regents; Dylan Jambrek, United Council Government
Relations Director; United Council Board of Directors; All
Presidents & Vice Presidents of the Student Governments of the
UW System; Scott Walker, Governor; Representative Stephen Nass, Higher Education Committee; Senator Sheila Harsdorf, Higher Education Committee; Representative Peter Barca; Senator Fred Risser; Senator Terry Moulton; Representative Kathy Bernier; Representative Warren Petryk; Representative Dana Wachs; and Senator Kathleen Vinehart.

SUBMITTED BY:
Jason Rector, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director and Off-Campus Senator
Samuel Fish, On-Campus Senator
February 4, 2013