UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF APC’S DECISION TO ELIMINATE THE MINOR REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire states that they are committed to provide “educational opportunities responsive to the needs of our communities, state, region and beyond;” and

WHEREAS, the Mission Statement of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Academic Affairs/Provost states that they will provide “Academic leadership in transforming liberal education;” and

WHEREAS, Graduation requirements currently specify “Each candidate for a baccalaureate degree must present at minimum 60 unique credits in either of the following ways: One standard major of at least 36 semester credits plus one minor of at least 24 semester credits, or one comprehensive major of at least 60 semester credits;” and

WHEREAS, the College of Arts and Sciences chairs and directors responded to a survey as to whether or not the academic minor should be required to earn a degree; and
WHEREAS, the chairs were asked to respond with "yes" or "no" to the question "Do you support eliminating or modifying the 60 unique credit rule?"; and

WHEREAS, the result of the survey was 18 "yes" votes and 2 "no" votes; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, February 5, 2013, the University Senate’s Academic Policy Commission voted to remove the major-minor concentration for the baccalaureate degree and augment the requirement to be supplemented that each student, along with having a major, pursue secondary areas of concentration; and

WHEREAS, the vote was passed 5-1; and

WHEREAS, students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire will still be able to pursue a minor if they so choose; and

WHEREAS, the Commission believes that the depth of the requirement can be maintained by requiring a certain number of upper-division credits outside of a student’s major to obtain a degree at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, the price of attending college continues to increase and the nullification of the minor requirement may encourage four-year graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, other University of Wisconsin System schools do not have a requirement for a minor while their minor and certificate programs continue to flourish; and
WHEREAS, the flexibility provided by eliminating the requirement of the minor will allow students to further engage in particular areas of study through various topical certificates and minors; and

WHEREAS, the implementation date is tentatively set for the 2014-2015 catalogue;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire supports the vote of the Academic Policies Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, as the representatives of the student body, hopes that the University Senate votes in support of eliminating the minor requirement on the baccalaureate degree; 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; and Dr. Jean Pratt, Chair, Academic Policies Commission.
SUBMITTED BY:
Samuel Fish, On-Campus Senator
February 11, 2013