WHEREAS, current state law requires substantial fines be collected from those who drink alcohol underage; and

WHEREAS, state law similarly threatens loss of licensure to establishments that sell alcohol to minors; and

WHEREAS, this system punishes underage drinkers and irresponsible businesses for breaking the law; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 46, also known as the “Brown Jug Bill,” would maintain penalties levied against underage drinkers; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 46 also requires underage drinkers pay $1,000 directly to liquor distributors in addition to civil court costs for that action; and

WHEREAS, these punitive measures disproportionately fine underage drinkers and position alcohol-selling establishments to benefit from underage drinking; and

WHEREAS, this shifts responsibility for illegal activity from the businesses that sell alcohol to minors to the minors themselves; and
WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Senate is scheduled to vote on Senate Bill 46 in the coming weeks;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire opposes passage of this legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate believes businesses who sell alcohol to minors should be held responsible for their illegal practices and disincentivized from continuing said behavior; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that allowing them to profit from their illegal sales does not accomplish that goal; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Joseph Abhold, Dean of Students; Mitch Freymiller, Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner, Vice Chancellor, Administration & Finance; Mark Reeves, Director, Business Services; Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Michael Ellis; Senator Joseph Leibham; Senator Scott Fitzgerald; Senator Frank Lasee; Senator Sheila Harsdorf; Senator Chris Larson, Senator Julie Lassa; Senator Luther Olsen; and Governor Scott Walker.

SUBMITTED BY
Jacob Wrasse, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director
and On-Campus Senator
October 14, 2013