UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFLUENCE PROJECT’S INCLUSION IN THE BOARD OF REGENTS 2015-2017 CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

WHEREAS, the Confluence Project represents a $77.2 million development opportunity for downtown Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, this project includes a privately owned and operated mixed use building suitable for student housing and a state-of-the-art performance arts center; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s residence halls are presently at 108% capacity, with students living in converted study lounges and off-campus hotels; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire’s Kjer Theater has reached the end of its functional life, with outdated infrastructure and a paradigm shift in theater pedagogy rendering the facility obsolete; and

WHEREAS, this project’s completion responds to vital facilities shortages for both UW-Eau Claire and the larger community of Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, collaboration with the community further strengthens the resolve and likely solvency of this project to
drive economic development; and

WHEREAS, 21,375 voters in Eau Claire County voted on whether or not to support a $3.5 million investment in the Confluence Project; and

WHEREAS, 54 percent of Eau Claire County residents supported that positive investment; and

WHEREAS, 13,679 voters in the City of Eau Claire voted on whether or not to slow down the process of approving city investment in collaborative community projects, like the Confluence Project; and

WHEREAS, 59 percent of voters struck down this measure; and

WHEREAS, there was a 210 percent increase in on-campus student voting during the April 2014 election when compared to April of 2013; and

WHEREAS, 85 percent of on-campus student voters supported the county’s investment of the Confluence Project; and

WHEREAS, 78 percent of on-campus students voters struck down the city referendum which resulted from an effort to oppose the Confluence Project; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate has supported the Confluence Project numerous times in recognition of the positive growth and interaction between the University, its students, and the community that it promotes; and
WHEREAS, continued support for this project is contingent upon a $25 million investment from the State of Wisconsin through UW-Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, the $25 million investment serves as a catalyst for $77.2 million dollars in economic development while simultaneously meeting facilities needs for UW-Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, this project has the overwhelming support of the community of Eau Claire and the UW-Eau Claire student body;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate strongly encourages the UW-System Board of Regents to include the $25 million dollar pledge supporting the Confluence Project in their 2015-2017 Capital Budget Request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate believes this project to be an opportunity for collaboration with the community that cannot be missed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the potential to replace facilities using a creative public/private partnership will be an economically sustainable model for future facilities upgrades; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the success of the Confluence Project, one of the first partnerships of this kind, is essential to future collaborations around the state; 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; Dr. Martin Hanifin, Vice Chancellor, Administration & Finance; Mark Reeves, Director, Business Services; UW-System Board of Regents; Governor Scott Walker; and UW-System President Ray Cross.

SUBMITTED
Jacob Wrasse, Student Body Vice President-Elect and Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director
Samuel Fish, Student Body President-Elect and Academic Affairs Commission Director
Bryan Larson, Student Body President
Sam Milewsky, Intergovernmental Affairs Intern and Off-Campus Senator
April 28, 2014