WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a long standing practice of holistically admitting students; and

WHEREAS, a holistic approach requires reviewing several criteria of a prospective student’s application; and

WHEREAS, these criteria range from GPA, class rank, course rigor, extra-curricular activities, service to community and ACT score among others; and

WHEREAS, one component of this review process is the requirement of two years of foreign language in high school; and

WHEREAS, the requirement has prevented students, who are otherwise very qualified for admission per the holistic review process, from applying or being admitted; and

WHEREAS, the availability of foreign language courses in high school is not uniform throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, depending on the community in which high schools are located and their available funding, they may only have foreign language courses as an elective; and

WHEREAS, this “elective” designation often forces students to
choose between taking foreign language courses and classes in Physical Education, Music, and Advanced Placement coursework, all of which hold value in the holistic admissions process; and

WHEREAS, through no fault of their own, these students may not be aware of our foreign language admission requirement until a junior conference with their guidance counselor, at which time they can no longer complete two years of foreign language before graduation; and

WHEREAS, this situation is not one that students can control and one they should not be punished for; and

WHEREAS, this existing foreign language admission requirement becomes a barrier for potential Blugolds and discriminates against students with less opportunity in high school; and

WHEREAS, in a time of declining enrollment and increasing economic responsibility for the operation of our University we need to reevaluate this requirement; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the foreign language admission requirement would allow for greater likelihood of admission for all qualified students; and

WHEREAS, the foreign language admission requirement at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is not a requirement for the UW System as a whole; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Madison is the only other UW school that possesses this requirement; and
WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Madison’s number one competitor in admitting students is the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse; and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse does not possess this foreign language admission requirement; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the foreign language admission requirement will not prevent the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire from admitting quality students; and

WHEREAS, the admission requirement does not change or affect any foreign language on culture requirements for graduation from the university; and

WHEREAS, the Enrollment Management Task Force recommended increasing the size of the freshman class without decreasing the academic qualifications of students admitted; and

WHEREAS, the foreign language admission requirement is the only admission requirement whose removal allows a new demographic of equal academic quality students to become Blugolds;

WHEREAS, the Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force has recommended the removal of this policy; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of Student Senate has issued a statement to the Academic Policies Committee in support of eliminating this requirement; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Policies Committee voted to remove the foreign language admission requirement; and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire supports the removal of the foreign language admission requirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate encourages the University Senate to support the removal of the two year foreign language admission requirement; 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; University Senate Personnel; Timothy Vaughan, Chair, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Heather Kretz, Director of Admissions, member, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Louisa Rice, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Benita Wagner, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Jeff Janot, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Jeff Vahlbusch, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Shevaun Watson, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Marc McEllistrom, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; David Jones, Curriculum Rapid Action Task Force; Mike Carney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Carter Smith, Chair, Department of Languages; and Paul Kaldjian, Chair, Committee for Internationalization and Global Engagement.