TO: Campus Community, news outlets

FROM: Amy Jewell, Public Relations Director

DATE: Feb. 5, 2014

SUBJECT: Student Senate supports UW System flexibility, but will work to reduce cut

After the release of Governor Scott Walker’s 2015-2017 budget proposal, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate expressed support for more UW System autonomy and a desire to work with the legislature to manage the impact of proposed cuts.

“As student representatives, we understand and support the move toward a more flexible, autonomous UW System that would allow campuses to better control their futures,” Student Body President Sam Fish said. “In an interdependent, global market place, this flexibility could allow UW-Eau Claire to respond to changes in higher education while staying competitive financially and academically in the Midwest.”

While the Senate will support the public authority model throughout the budget process, Student Body Vice President Jake Wrasse said the size of the proposed cut would be a topic of discussion with state representatives.

“We look forward to working with legislators to reduce the size of the UW System’s cut, and hope we can reach a level that satisfies budgetary goals while protecting the quality of UW system degrees,” Wrasse said. “Whether in discussions at the state or campus level, our paramount objective over the next several months of this process is providing Wisconsin’s students with continually excellent education.”

Even as the Senate works with legislators and university administrators, Student Senate Intergovernmental Affairs Director Rebecca Jewell said she hopes students from across the campus and state join in the dialogue.

“We encourage students to participate in this discussion through positive, proactive communication with area legislators,” Jewell said. “Working with our representatives to have reasoned, productive discourse about this issue is the cornerstone of our approach.”

For further media comment, contact Public Relations Director Amy Jewell at jewellal@uwec.edu or call 715-836-4875.