TO: Campus Community, news outlets
FROM: Amy Jewell, Public Relations Director
DATE: March 20, 2015
SUBJECT: Student Senate’s response to United Council’s stance on public authority model

Eau Claire, WI - The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate reaffirms that they are in strong support of the public authority model, and disagrees with the position of the United Council of University of Wisconsin students.

On Friday, United Council of University of Wisconsin Students issued a press release supporting Republican leadership’s response to the public authority model. UW-Eau Claire is not a member campus of United Council and the Senate disagrees with their position, believing that the Public Authority model will offer autonomy and cost savings stemming from the UW System’s freedom from more state government regulations.

“The Senate recognizes that budget cuts are inevitable, though the final number will likely not match the amount proposed in the governor’s budget,” said Student Body Vice President Jacob Wrasse. “Regardless of the size of the cut, institutional reorganization will be necessary and the public authority model would provide the UW system the means to make necessary changes.”

Since the current legislative session has begun, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate has been planning student advocacy trips, including a 50-person educational government immersion experience to the Capitol in February. The Senate has been working with both sides of the aisle and will continue to do so to help reduce the budget cuts and to support the public authority model.

The UW-Eau Claire Senate hopes to continue to see legislators work together to reduce the proposed budget cuts to a manageable level for the UW System. The Senate would also like to see greater recognition of where the public authority model’s flexibilities come from, as most major benefits come from long term cost-savings in the areas of construction, bonding, and purchasing.

For further media comment, contact Public Relations Director Amy Jewell at jewellal@uwec.edu.