WHEREAS, the current proposed legislation (LRB-2653/1) being considered in the Wisconsin Legislature would 1) exempt any college or university in the UW System and any technical college from the law that allows a university or college to prohibit a person from carrying a firearm in any building on its grounds if the person holds a license to carry a concealed weapon; 2) Repeal the provision in the administrative code in which the UW System generally prohibits persons from carrying, possessing, or using any dangerous weapon on university property or in university buildings or facilities, and

WHEREAS, allowing concealed carry permit holders to bring firearms on university grounds, buildings, or into classrooms threatens the progress of education and the climate of freely expressing ideas and makes the university less safe.

WHEREAS, the faculty, staff, students, families and leadership of our respective University is keenly aware and understands the unique environment and population of our campus and the people we serve, and

WHEREAS, law enforcement professionals, including our own University police, believe and are on record that prohibiting firearms on college campuses, except by campus police and trained security officers, is an essential element of those schools’ safety plans, and

WHEREAS, the University Senate at the UW-Eau Claire is responsible for being a voice for students, faculty, and staff on issues relating to campus safety and general well-being and furthermore are supportive of our own Student Senate’s opposition to the proposed bill, and

WHEREAS, all students, faculty, and staff at the UW-Eau Claire have the right to learn and work in a safe environment free from concealed firearms, and do not see any compelling evidence that supports that this bill would
contribute to a safer environment for our students, faculty and staff, and prospective students.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that University Senate that represents the faculty and staff of the UW – Eau Claire oppose any bill put forth by the State of Wisconsin that could prohibit universities from banning the carrying of firearms by non-law enforcement officials in any building on our campus, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the faculty and staff at the UW – Eau Claire strongly encourages legislators to give high priority and support to campus safety, and explore other alternatives that would enhance campus safety and raise awareness of this important issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the faculty and staff at the UW-Eau Claire urge legislators to vote against any such legislation, and encourage them to focus their efforts on actions to maintain and strengthen the University as a critical asset and partner for elevating the prosperity of Wisconsin.

References
- Act to amend 943.13 (1m)(c) to allow for concealed carry of firearms in university buildings.
- "Joint Statement: UW System President Ray Cross and UW System Chancellors on Campus Concealed Carry Bill." UW System. 29 May 2015.
- Student Senate Resolution in Opposition to the “Campus Carry Act” UW-Eau Claire Student Senate 19 October 2015

Motion for the University Senate
The University Senate Executive Committee recommends that the above resolution be approved and forwarded to: Chancellor James Schmidt, Provost Patricia Kleine, UW-Eau Claire Foundation Chair Barry Moullet, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate President Jake Wrasse, UW System President Ray Cross; Board of Regents President Michael Falbo, Board of Regents Vice-President John Behling, Regent Edward Manydeeds, Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Terry Moulton; Representative Warren Petryk, Representative Kathleen Bernier, Representative Thomas Larson; Speaker Robin Vos; and Governor Scott Walker

SUBMITTED BY
Dr. Douglas Olson, At-Large Faculty Senator
October 21, 2015