UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED UNIVERSITY LEARNING GOALS

WHEREAS, the current baccalaureate goals are listed in Attachment “A;” and

WHEREAS, the letter to Provost Tallant in Attachment “B” details the process that has led up to the recommendation of new learning goals for the undergraduate experience; and

WHEREAS, the current goals are impractical and out of touch with the culture of our undergraduate community; and

WHEREAS, most instructors brush over discussions of the goals because they have not been properly applied to the complete education we receive; and

WHEREAS, most students are unaware of the contents of the baccalaureate goals;

WHEREAS, revising the goals and making them more applicable to the liberal-arts based education we receive, no matter our program, will help make our education more intentional both on the parts of instructors and students; and

WHEREAS, throughout the discussions facilitated by the committee, there has been overwhelming support for the proposed
learning goals, or ones significantly similar, from students, faculty, and staff;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports revising the University Learning Goals to the following:

The Goals of a University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Liberal Arts Education include:

• Knowledge of Human Culture and the Natural World
• Creative and Critical Thinking
• Effective Communication
• Individual and Social Responsibility
• Respect for Diversity among People

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages the University Senate to adopt these University Learning Goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages further discussion on how to make the goals more available and accessible to the student body; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Steven Tallant, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business & Student Services; Dr. Andrew Phillips, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; Dr. Donald Christian, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences; Dr. V. Thomas Dock,
Dean, College of Business; Dr. Gail Scukanec, Dean, College of Education & Human Sciences; Dr. Elaine Wendt, Dean, College of Nursing & Health Sciences; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University Senate; Andrea Gapko, Vice Chair, University Senate; Jennifer Brockpahler, Academic Staff Representative, University Senate; The Spectator; Leader-Telegram; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity; and Jesse Dixon, Acting Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Raymond French, Student Body President
Meghan Charlier, Student Body Vice President
Aaron Wingad, Academic Affairs Commission Director
and Off-Campus Senator
December 10, 2007
CURRENT UW-EAU CLAIRE BACCALAUREATE GOALS

The baccalaureate experience will provide students with:

1. An understanding of a liberal education.
2. An appreciation of the University as a learning community.
3. An ability to inquire, think, analyze.
4. An ability to write, read, speak, listen.
5. An understanding of numerical data.
6. A historical consciousness.
7. An international and intercultural experience.
8. An understanding of science and the scientific methods.
9. An appreciation of the arts.
10. An understanding of values.
11. An understanding of human behavior and human institutions.
To: Steve Tallant, Provost

From: Ad Hoc Committee to Facilitate Discussion of University Learning Goals
Mickey Kolis, Chair Ray French
Marc Goulet Kate Lang
Carmen Manning Steve Tallant

This document serves as a final report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Facilitate Discussion of University Learning Goals.

In fall of 2005, Provost Ron Satz asked College Curriculum Committees, the University Academic Policies Committee, and the University General Education Committee to discuss and respond to the Progress Report on the Assessment of Student Academic Achievement (https://web.uwec.edu/acadaff). Each of these bodies responded, and there was an overwhelming consensus that the 11 Goals of the Baccalaureate needed revision.

Additionally, as part of ongoing assessment activities on campus, a group of 26 University community members attended a UW System Assessment Meeting in River Falls. In the wake of this meeting, this group drafted a revised list of University Learning Goals in hopes of sparking a university-wide conversation. The proposed list included:

Students will be able to:
1. communicate effectively;
2. think creatively and critically within and across disciplines;
3. discover, investigate and innovate within and across disciplines;
4. demonstrate ethical reasoning, leadership and teamwork, and citizenship;
5. understand diversity among cultures and people.

Interim Provost Steve Tallant then called a University-wide meeting to invite discussion of the Baccalaureate Goals. The general consensus at this meeting also was that the 11 Goals of the Baccalaureate needed revision. Therefore, a process to facilitate a campus-wide conversation about University Learning Goals was developed at this meeting. An ad hoc committee, comprised of student Ray French, Marc Goulet, Mickey Kolis, Kate Lang, Carmen Manning, and Steve Tallant, was formed to facilitate a campus-wide discussion of University Learning Goals.

During fall of 2006, departments, programs, units, colleges, curriculum committees and student organizations held discussions of the draft University Learning Goals facilitated by a set of questions from the ad hoc committee. Responses to these questions are available at the following website (https://web.uwec.edu/acadaff).
Based on these responses, the ad hoc committee offered the following observations:

- The response to the revised goals was overwhelmingly positive. Each group that reviewed the goals had helpful suggestions and the conversation focused clearly on how these goals will impact student learning.
- While many people liked the simplicity of the proposed goals, some people thought the goals were streamlined too far and that we should want more from our students. This group perceived a lack of a critical core of knowledge.
- People saw that the goals would allow departments, programs and units to establish outcomes that were more focused. The University Learning Goals need to be implemented and supported with specific detail at the program, unit and individual course levels. All programs, units and courses need to be viewed through the lens of the University Learning Goals.
- People wondered how the goals would be assessed. Clear, direct assessment of the University Learning Goals must be embedded in capstone courses and other programmatic assessments. Learning data from these assessments must then be used to inform curricular revision at the department, unit, program and university level.
- The ad hoc committee concluded that the University Learning Goals should be our campus’ definition of a “well-educated” person. The uniqueness of UWEC is not in our goals, but in how we implement these goals, including our Marks of Excellence.

Based on the feedback from departments, programs, units, colleges, curriculum committees, and student organizations the ad hoc committee made the following revisions to the proposed University Learning Goals.

UW Eau-Claire graduates will:

- Be liberally educated individuals who possess a critical core of knowledge.
- Communicate effectively.
- Think creatively and critically within and across disciplines through investigation, discovery and innovation.
- Demonstrate ethical reasoning, leadership and teamwork, and citizenship.
- Embrace diversity among cultures and people.

These observations and revised goals were once again distributed to the university community and University Senate sponsored a conversation regarding the goals. Approximately 60 people were in attendance and the Chancellor began the session with an overview of how the discussion of the Baccalaureate Goals was intertwined with the Campus Strategic Planning process. The proposed learning goals were discussed and suggestions were made that we look at the AAC&U goals. The AAC&U Educational Outcomes lists 5 goals: 1) strong analytical, communication, quantitative and informational skills; 2) deep understanding of and hands-on experience with the inquiry practices of disciplines that explore the natural, social and cultural realms; 3) intercultural knowledge and collaborative problem-solving skills; 4) a proactive sense of responsibility for individual, civic and social choices; and 5) habits of mind that foster integrative thinking and the ability to transfer skills and knowledge from one setting to another. Another AAC&U listing which was referenced was: 1) knowledge of human culture and the natural world; 2) intellectual and practical skills; and 3) individual and social responsibility. There seemed to be some agreement that if “our uniqueness at UWEC” was to be derived from
how we implemented the goals, then perhaps we should look at the goals that have been studied in depth.

Therefore, as participants in these many conversations, through our wide reading about goals, and from our investigation of other university’s goals, the ad hoc committee would like to recommend the following University Learning Goals. We feel these five goals capture the many conversations and recommendations from this process.

The Goals of a University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Liberal Arts Education include:
- Knowledge of Human Culture and the Natural World
- Creative and Critical Thinking
- Effective Communication
- Individual and Social Responsibility
- Respect for Diversity among People

We note that while each of the Goals is important unto itself, a Liberal Arts Education also focuses intensively on the connections among the individual goals.

In conclusion, the ad hoc committee makes the following recommendations:
- We recommend that the University APC adopt these University Learning Goals.
- We recommend that the university community create mechanisms for ongoing conversations about the University Learning Goals paying special attention to engaging students.