UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF A FOUR DAY BREAK SURROUNDING EASTER

WHEREAS, the Friday before Easter, popularly known as “Good Friday,” and Easter itself, are celebrated by large numbers of students, even though they lack legal recognition; and

WHEREAS, during the 2005-2006 academic year students were granted a four day break, a tradition which students have come to expect; and

WHEREAS, during the 2006-2007 and 2008-2009 academic years, classes are scheduled on the Monday immediately following Easter Sunday; and

WHEREAS, for many students, it is an imperative tradition that these holidays, which commemorate the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and comprise the holiest days of the liturgical year, be spent at home with family; and

WHEREAS, regardless of religious belief, or lack thereof, this is traditionally a time for students to spend with their families; and
WHEREAS, having class on a day immediately following a major holiday creates gross inconvenience regarding travel, and restricts valuable time spent with family; and

WHEREAS, a greater window of travel time will allow students to make travel decisions based on their personal safety and convenience; and

WHEREAS, scheduling classes on the Monday following Easter requires many students to return to campus on the evening of Easter or early Monday morning, leaving little leeway for variations in travel plans, weather and/or traffic conditions; and

WHEREAS, this requirement infringes upon many students' ability to celebrate Easter with their families; and

WHEREAS, when surveyed, a resounding majority of students expressed support of having the Monday following Easter off, explicitly due to the fact that they intended to return home for the holiday; and

WHEREAS, the possibility of future academic calendars in which students are not granted any days off for the Easter holiday would severely curtail students' ability to celebrate the holiday as they wish;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that in future years, when the academic calendar is being constructed, due consideration be given to the above clauses, and serious thought be given to a calendar which has no classes scheduled for the Friday preceding
Easter or the Monday following it, conceding that it is a necessary travel day for students wishing to celebrate Easter at home who may live a great distance from the university; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Raymond French transmit copies of this resolution to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business and Student Services; Dr. Steve Tallant, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor; Jan Morse, Administrative Officer, Academic Affairs; Board of Regents; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Robert Hamill, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director and On-Campus Senator
Daniel James Schauer, Off-Campus Senator
Isaac Orr, On-Campus Senator
April 9, 2007