WHEREAS, the Student Health Services has worked collaboratively with the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Director of Counseling Services to maintain the present level of mental health services (particularly counseling) to students during the budget crisis; and

WHEREAS, the rising demand of mental health services on college campuses has been well documented over the past several years; and

WHEREAS, a positive correlation exists between students who seek mental health services and academic retention and success; and

WHEREAS, twenty five percent of the student population has used the counseling service before the time they graduate; and

WHEREAS, the country has seen a national increase with suicide and depression, and an increase in numbers that commit suicide; and
WHEREAS, other institutions with 10,500 students typically have six counseling staff; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire currently employs 4.19 counseling staff; and

WHEREAS, a study showed that campuses should have one counselor for 1,500 students; and

WHEREAS, because of the budget crisis the campus is at risk to lose two positions that equate to 1.74 FTE; and

WHEREAS, these two positions run help groups and outreaches; and

WHEREAS, these two positions account for approximately 450 session by 220 individual students per year; and

WHEREAS, the specialty areas for the counselors include alcohol and other drug issues, women’s health and eating disorders; and

WHEREAS, without these positions the ability to help students would greatly diminish; and

WHEREAS, the Student Health Services requests $156,300 to fund two counseling positions that equate to 1.74 FTE; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Commission voted 9-0-1 in favor of supporting the request; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Commission voted 9-0-1 in favor of raising segregated fees $16.00;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate supports the counseling services on this university; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate allocates $156,300 to Student Health Services to fund two counseling positions; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Lauer transmit a copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Marty Wood, Interim Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. P.J. Kennedy, Director, Counseling Services; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.