WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena has served the ice skating needs of the community of Eau Claire since 1975; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena is home to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Blugold Men’s and Women’s Hockey teams, the Eau Claire Memorial and North High School Hockey teams, the Eau Claire Figure Skating Club and the Eau Claire Youth Hockey Association; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena currently serves more than 250,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena fills to capacity at numerous events; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena is currently too small to host NCAA events; and
WHEREAS, a larger facility with our name prominent would encourage prospective students to attend UWEC; and

WHEREAS, any visitor to Hobbs Ice Arena thinks, from its outside appearance, that the building is a warehouse; and

WHEREAS, there is not an adequate entrance for community members, students, or our guests; and

WHEREAS, the facilities are not adequate for our student users; and

WHEREAS, a major liability of the facility is the location of the locker rooms to the team locker rooms; and

WHEREAS, as the hockey teams have their lockers and changing rooms upstairs and their shower facilities downstairs; and

WHEREAS, this creates a tricky situation in terms of changing and cleaning up after games; and

WHEREAS, it is not uncommon to see a line of players traipsing up and down the stairs in their robes before and after practices; and

WHEREAS, the current facility is a deterrent when prospective students investigate UWEC Blugold Hockey; and

WHEREAS, a goal in the Strategic Plan is to foster and develop relationships with the city on capital expense projects; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate has collaborated successfully with the City of Eau Claire on previous occasions including the Carson Park Project, and public transit; and
WHEREAS, as one of Wisconsin’s premier undergraduate universities, the quality of our facilities should reflect how we value our students; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate donated $250,000 in the spring of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation matched the amount; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation is coming to the students to seek additional $50,000 because they are hoping to cover at least half of the cost of the Blugold addition through university-related sources; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost of the Blugold locker room addition is more than $1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation has agreed to match an additional commitment of the UW-Eau Claire students up to $50,000; and

WHEREAS, the collective sum of all of our donations would be a positive stepping stone for the community while fundraising to collect the rest; and

WHEREAS, an additional donation would ensure the naming rights of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Hobbs Ice Arena project is a model project for future community collaborations; and

WHEREAS, by supporting an additional contribution, the community would see that students want collaborations to occur; and

WHEREAS, without the additional student contribution, the renovation may not occur; and
WHEREAS, without the renovation, Hobbs Ice Arena may be closing, leaving few options available for student users;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the future dedicated area of the expansion that would include: men’s and women’s locker rooms, offices, training room, weight room, entrance area, and additional seating; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the future observation area on the second floor, used to promote the hockey program and the University; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the University’s name and emblem to be promoted throughout the renovation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Student Senate supports the additional donation of $50,000 to the Hobbs Ice Arena; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate plans to fund the additional $50,000 following the alternate 10 plan (attachment A); 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. V. Thomas Dock, Acting Vice Chancellor for Administration, Facilities & Finance; Dave Gessner, Director, Business Services; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Kimera Way, UWEC Foundation; Scott Kilgallon, Director, Athletics; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.