WHEREAS, Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich has signed the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment in August 2007 to “reduce or offset the campus’s overall input of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere until an ideal carbon neutrality is achieved, as well as integrate sustainability education into campus curriculums;” and

WHEREAS, the Centennial Plan has identified “seven university priorities” called “gold arrow priorities” for this academic year, one of which is entitled “Steward Physical Resources” and is described to “identify and prioritize campus improvements, focusing on sustainability and community partnerships” through “Action Projects” which include “articulate a philosophy of equitable, inclusive physical resource stewardship” and “launch Clean Commute initiative” and “begin to implement Presidents Commitment strategies;” and
WHEREAS, the Centennial Plan identified “Stewardship and Sustainability” as a key category and stated “commitment to sustainability must pervade everything we do” and strives for the university to “first and foremost, preserve our human and natural relationships” and recommends the university identify “how we interact with our planet and its resources;” and

WHEREAS, the Climate Commitment Advisory Team has been created by the Chancellor to “identify ways to expand participation in sustainability efforts” by which associate professor of biology, Kristina Beuning, created an advanced interdisciplinary study course, “UW-Eau Claire Campus Carbon Inventory” to measure the carbon footprint of UW-Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon Inventory was previewed to the Climate Commitment Advisory Team in a presentation last spring which made recommendations on how to lower the carbon impact of categories including “Water and Energy Conservation,” “Transportation Issues,” and “Food and Waste;” and

WHEREAS, the official publication will be unveiled on October 22nd, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kate Hale has been appointed by Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich to be UW-Eau Claire’s Campus Sustainability Fellow as part of the Strategic Plan to “identify ways to expand participation in sustainability efforts” and “to coordinate and support sustainability efforts currently operating on campus and assist in the development of new efforts;” and

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Foundation has created the Campus
Sustainability Initiatives Fund to “help advance the university’s green efforts’’ and “seeks funding to support the sustainability efforts being developed on campus;” and

WHEREAS, the “Student Senate Survey of 2008,” compiled by Ray French, asked the question “What top five things should Student Senate work on” and concluded that 67% of the students polled said “becoming a greener campus,” and also asked “How important are environmental issues to you” and concluded that 83% of students claim that environmental issues are important to very important; and

WHEREAS, United Council passed a resolution titled “Sustainability Reserve Resolution” (EV 0607-02) at the June 6th, 2007 General Assembly which “encourages all member campuses to look into creating a ‘sustainability reserve’ for their campus” and explains “the money in the ‘sustainability reserve’ is to be solely for sustainability projects within the campus;” and

WHEREAS, UW-La Crosse, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Green Bay and UW-Stevens Point have all passed sustainability funds to financially support environmental efforts on campus by raising student fees; and

WHEREAS, Student Senate has not financially supported the sustainability efforts on campus even though there is overwhelming student support;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that upon passage of this bill UW-Eau Claire Student Senate authorizes the referendum question on Attachment “A” to be put to an online vote to take place on Thursday, November 20th, 2008 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to ask the student body if they approve paying ten dollars a
semester through student fees to go into a sustainability reserve entitled “UW-Eau Claire Environmental Responsibility Account;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon passage the student fee go into effect immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the money gathered by the UW-Eau Claire Environmental Responsibility Account accumulate for one academic year before any spending occurs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the one year hold on spending, a subcommittee or commission be established by and under the authority of Student Senate to distribute the monies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during the one year hold on spending, a committee be established to distribute the monies to environmental causes on campus and the committee must include two members of administration, two members of faculty and five students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee plan and prepare outlines for financing through the account that would follow the guidelines of grant proposals as this would allow for faculty-student projects, courses and capstone courses to be designed around environmental projects to further our goal of innovative learning on campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding also be available to student organizations that cooperate with one or more other student organizations to implement other environmental projects and increase student involvement and
diversity among student organizations; 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; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Dr. Kate Hale, Assistant Professor, English Department; Dr. Kristina Beuning, Associate Professor, Biology Department; Dave Gessner, Director, Business Services; The Spectator; The Leader-Telegram; RHA, Dr. Joe Hupy, Assistant Professor, Geography/Anthropology Department; Dr. Crispin Pierce, Assistant Professor, Public Health Professions; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Students, Dean of Students Office.
REFERENDUM QUESTION:

Do you, the students of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, approve an increase of Student Fees of $10 per semester to go into an environmental sustainability reserve entitled “UW-Eau Claire Environmental Responsibility Account?” This account would be controlled by student majority committee to distribute funding for environmental causes on campus through faculty-student projects, courses, capstones and allow for student organizations to team up with another student organization to implement environmental projects across campus.

Answer: Yes/No