WHEREAS, the recent event involving South Middle School health teacher Stephanie Rowe shed light on the discrimination that the Eau Claire LGBT community faces; and

WHEREAS, she felt that homosexuality should be a part of the Human Growth and Development curriculum; and

WHEREAS, her choice was supported by the school’s administration; and

WHEREAS, upon negative reception the administration did not continue their support; and

WHEREAS, Stephanie Rowe fought for the importance of educating children about the LGBT community; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire community is home to many individuals who actively fight for LGBT equality; and

WHEREAS, the yearly recognition of a community LGBT advocate would strengthen the bond between the University and the community, as well as recognize the diversity within Eau Claire;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Life and Diversity Commission of the Student Senate present an annual "Eau Claire LGBT Advocate of the Year" award to a member of the Eau Claire community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this award will go to a community member who demonstrates outstanding activism which fosters the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) acceptance, education, and rights in Eau Claire and the surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recipient of the award will be chosen by the Student Life and Diversity Commission; 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; Spectator; Leader-Telegram; Katie Troyer, RHA President; Dr. Marty Wood, Chair, University Senate; Ann Lapp, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development & Diversity; and Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

Submitted by:
Emily Mattheisen, Student Life & Diversity Commission Director & Off-Campus Senator
Student Life & Diversity Commission
May 5, 2008