WHEREAS the 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled to uphold the new Wisconsin law requiring voters to present identification that includes a photograph, their signature, and an expiration date to be permitted to vote in the November 4, 2014 election, AND

WHEREAS this law has been enacted immediately, AND

WHEREAS the Blugold ID card issued to students when they enrolled does not meet the new ID criteria, AND

WHEREAS to be permitted to vote in this November 2014 election, students whose permanent residence is not in Eau Claire will therefore need to do all of the following:

- Register to vote
- Obtain a new UW student ID from the Blugold Card office
- Obtain student enrollment verification form, AND

WHEREAS these multiple requirements place an intolerable burden on busy students who are highly likely to be confused (particularly the freshmen and sophomores for whom this is the first election in which they’re eligible to vote), AND

WHEREAS many eligible students, realistically, will fail to comply with these multiple steps to prepare to vote in Eau Claire in time for the November 4 election, AND

WHEREAS it is therefore highly probable that the new voter ID requirements will disenfranchise students who do not have a WI driver’s license or a state identification card with a local Eau Claire address, AND

WHEREAS it is both the duty and the privilege of the faculty of UWEC to empower students’ rights to and responsibilities of citizenship, AND

WHEREAS the faculty and academic staff of UWEC vow to do everything within our power to uphold our students’ constitutional right to vote, AND

WHEREAS the faculty and academic staff of UWEC do not wish to place any of our students into the position of having to choose between exercising that constitutional right and attending class on November 4,

BE IT RESOLVED that

- the faculty and academic staff of UWEC declares its full support of the exercise of the right to vote endowed by the Constitution of the United States in our students;
- the faculty and academic staff of UWEC requests that Chancellor Schmidt consider canceling classes on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 to enable students to go home to vote if necessary;
- the faculty and academic staff of UWEC are encouraged to offer attendance amnesty to any student missing class on November 4, 2014 in order to vote;
- the faculty and academic staff of UWEC requests that Student Senate consider organizing a half-day “Students’ Right to Vote” event, offering a professional development retreat inviting everyone working together as part of the university community to participate in a strategic planning discussion focused upon considering measures that UWEC can adopt to assist and promote student civic engagement;
the faculty and academic staff of UWEC requests that the Student Senate consider calling on the Student Senates of other UW System schools to join UWEC in implementing their own campus “Students’ Right to Vote” activities.