UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF BLUE LIGHT EMERGENCY PHONES
REORGANIZATION AND UPDATES

WHEREAS, in 1995, the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire installed Emergency Phones to enhance the safety of all students, staff, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the phones were placed in strategic areas to assist persons in need of emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS, there are currently 20 Emergency Phones in various areas of campus, including parking lots, exteriors of buildings, along sidewalks, and near athletic fields; and

WHEREAS, upon activation, a blue strobe light will activate on the top of the pole and the caller will be able to speak directly with the Eau Claire County 911 Communications Center and UW-Eau Claire Police Officers will then be sent to the area to assist the caller; and

WHEREAS, in the last five years, there have been approximate 155 emergency phone activations; and

WHEREAS, University Police were unable to locate any type of emergency or anyone in need of emergency assistance for about 125 of those activations; and

WHEREAS, approximately three of the 155 activations were considered legitimate; and

WHEREAS, for the last three years, monthly emergency phone tests have shown a total of 14 emergency phones that failed to activate; and

WHEREAS, Learning and Technology Services’ Technical Support uses about 10-20 labor hours every month to service the phones; and

WHEREAS, a majority of people own and carry cell phones; and

WHEREAS, there are increased services enabling students to travel to and from campus without having to walk, including the Campus Cab and Eau Claire transit; and

WHEREAS, people from University Police, Learning and Technology Services, Facilities, and Student Senate are working on plans to update the emergency phone locations and structures; and

WHEREAS, the full proposal is outlined in “Attachment A”; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate is in support of removing the 14 identified emergency phones reflected in “Attachment B”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate encourages the university to replace and update the six retained emergency phones; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Yates will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity and Student Affairs; Dr. Joseph Abhold, Dean of Students; Heather David Sprick, Chief of Police; Jay Dobson, Police Lieutenant; Heather Kretz, Admissions Director; Troy Terhark, Facilities Director; Holly Hassemer, University Senate; Kent Gerbrich, Technical Services Manager.

SUBMITTED BY:
Maddie Forrest, Vice President

Hillary Smith, Chief of Staff