Resolution of the UWEC University Senate

Regarding the Implementation of the Canvas System in UW Institutions (DRAFT of 11 October 2019)

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System has adopted the Canvas learning management system software; and

WHEREAS such software directly affects curricular design, delivery of instruction, and the means of evaluation and grading of students; and

WHEREAS Chapter 36 of Wisconsin Statutes states in part: "Subject to board policy the chancellors of the institutions in consultation with their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula...[,] determining academic standards and establishing grading systems" [36.09(3)] and "The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, and the chancellor of such institution, shall have the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities" [36.09(4)]; and

WHEREAS the imposition of a single Canvas environment across all System schools removes control of academic standards and grading systems from the faculty of said schools, and is thus contrary to Wisconsin Statute; and

WHEREAS decisions regarding the single Canvas environment have been made on behalf of the University of Wisconsin System by individuals not identified as having said responsibility under Wisconsin Statute; and

WHEREAS restrictions on the Canvas environment hamper content delivery and instruction; and

WHEREAS restrictions on the Canvas environment have been incorrectly justified on the basis of misunderstandings of, among other things, FERPA law; and

WHEREAS the current Canvas environment is not true to the one when Canvas was piloted by faculty and students at UWEC, and so does not reflect the system that was implicitly promised;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the University Senate of UWEC, that individual campuses and their faculty should at the earliest possible moment be given control of local Canvas environments, to configure as they deem best suits the needs of those campuses and their students.