

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

**CALLING ON ALL NEW BUILDINGS, CONSTRUCTED BY OR CONSTRUCTED
THROUGH PARTICIPATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE,
TO UNDERGO SUSTAINABILITY CERTIFICATION BY A THIRD-PARTY**

1 WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate (Student Senate) is the
2 official voice of the student body; and

3 WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) strives to “foster in one
4 another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a
5 transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.”; and

6 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is committed to the values of “Diversity and inclusiveness;
7 leadership; innovation and continuous improvement; stewardship and sustainability.”; and

8 WHEREAS, the United Nations defines sustainable development as “[...] meeting the needs
9 of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”; and

10 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization states “[Climate Change] threatens the essential
11 ingredients of good health - clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply, and safe shelter -
12 and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health. [...] Between 2030 and
13 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from
14 malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress alone. The direct damage costs to health is estimated to
15 be between USD 2-4 billion per year by 2030”; and

16 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services states “Evidence and research
17 drawn from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) suggests [...] climate and
18 health impacts [on] Precipitation Changes, Heat Extremes, Drought, Winter Weather Changes,
19 Disease Vectors, Surface Water, [and] Groundwater.”; and

20 WHEREAS, the fourth National Climate Assessment states “Impacts from climate change on
21 extreme weather and climate-related events, air quality, and the transmission of disease through
22 insects and pests, food, and water increasingly threaten the health and well-being of [people that live
23 in the United States], particularly populations that are already vulnerable.”; and

24 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire as an educational institution is committed to strategic and
25 collaborative partnerships with numerous health care systems through over 300 signed affiliations,
26 including the Mayo Clinic Health System (Mayo Clinic); and

27 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire seeks to continue growth in collaborative research with the
28 Mayo Clinic, which was announced in June of 2017, through the proposed Sonnentag Event and
29 Recreation Complex, the New Science Building; and

30 WHEREAS, the Mayo Clinic website states that Mayo Clinic strives to “[...] sustain and re-
31 invest in our mission and extended communities by wisely managing our human, natural, and
32 material resources.”; and

33 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Summary for Policymakers
34 reports “limiting climate change to 1.5°C necessitates net zero anthropogenic carbon dioxide
35 emissions by around 2050 (40–60% interquartile range).”; and

36 WHEREAS, total carbon emissions of UW-Eau Claire from the year 2017 to 2018 were
37 35,397 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, equal to the carbon sequestering of 585,297 trees
38 planted and grown for ten years; and

39 WHEREAS, in the year 2007, former Chancellor Brian Levin-Stankevich signed the
40 American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, establishing the goal of net zero
41 campus carbon emissions; and

42 WHEREAS, in the year 2018 the UW-Eau Claire Climate Action Plan Advisory
43 Committee, comprised of representatives from Housing + Residence Life, Facilities, Centers, various
44 academic departments, the Student Office of Sustainability, and Student Senate, convened by
45 Chancellor James Schmidt, created the UW-Eau Claire Climate Action Plan; and

46 WHEREAS, in the year 2018, the Climate Action Plan was passed through
47 the Student Senate, Staff Council, and University Senate and signed on behalf of UW-Eau Claire by
48 Chancellor James Schmidt; and

49 WHEREAS, the Climate Action Plan sets a goal of net carbon neutrality for the UW-
50 Eau Claire by the year 2050, a goal that mirrors carbon neutrality goals established by the State of
51 Wisconsin, Eau Claire County, and City of Eau Claire; and

52 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Stevens Point, Oshkosh, Milwaukee,
53 Whitewater, and La Crosse have each constructed one or more third-party certified energy efficient
54 buildings; and

55 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has engaged in two residence hall renovations and five new
56 construction projects in the past two years; and

57 WHEREAS, no construction participated in by UW-Eau Claire has undergone a third-party
58 energy efficiency certification; and

59 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has not implemented the construction standards required to
60 reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 outlined within the Climate Action Plan; and

61 WHEREAS, within the 2018-2019 Student Office of Sustainability term, two separate
62 proposals in support of allocating funds towards sustainable third-party certification were brought
63 forward and passed unanimously through the body; and

64 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Student Senate calls upon its administration to re-
65 evaluate its current trajectory towards accomplishing the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050
66 established within the Climate Action Plan; and

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls on the staff and administration
68 of UW-Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin System to collaborate with
69 selected architectural & engineering services firms to certify all future newly constructed buildings
70 within the UW-Eau Claire community as sustainable by a third-party; and

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls on the staff and administration
72 of UW-Eau Claire and University of Wisconsin System to collaborate with staff and administration
73 of the UW-Eau Claire Foundation to encourage the certification of future constructed buildings
74 within the UW-Eau Claire community as sustainable by a third-party; and

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate calls for the construction of a high-
76 performance, energy efficient, flagship, third-party certified sustainable New Science Building that
77 aligns with UW-Eau Claire's commitment to public health and wellbeing; and

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate calls upon UW-Eau Claire staff
79 and administration to take immediate, deliberate, and decisive action that seeks to establish an
80 intent to construct a high-performance, energy efficient, flagship, third party certified sustainable
81 building within the charter/scope of the New Science Building; and

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate calls upon its administration to issue
83 a campus-wide statement on behalf of UW-Eau Claire, acknowledging the Global Climate Crisis, its
84 impact on our campus-community, and what steps UW-Eau Claire as an institution is taking towards
85 mitigation; and

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate at UW-Eau Claire will continue to
87 demand accountability from its institution in encouraging a culture of sustainability
88 within the campus community that will allow UW-Eau Claire to continue to educate and foster
89 excellence for generations to come; and

90 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will
91 transmit a copy to University of Wisconsin Board of Regents: Robert Atwell, John Robert Behling,

92 Scott Beightol, José Delgado, Michael M. Grebe, Eve Hall, Mike Jones, Tracey L. Klein, Becky Levzow,
93 Edmund Manydeeds III, Janice Mueller, Andrew S. Petersen, Cris Peterson, Jason R. Plante,
94 Carolyn Stranford Taylor, Torrey Tiedeman, Karen Walsh, Gerald Whitburn, Olivia Woodmansee; Dr.
95 James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic
96 Affairs; Kimera Way, President, UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Executive Director of University
97 Advancement; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Albert Colom, Vice
98 Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Demetrius Smith, Program Director of EDI; LaRue Pierce, Dean of
99 Students; Michael Rindo, Assistant Chancellor for Facilities and University Relations; Troy Terhark,
100 Director, Facilities; Chris Hessel, Associate Director of Facilities; Renee Strehlau, Campus Facilities
101 Planner, Facilities; Anthony Rongstad, Sustainability Analyst; Tracy Drier, Associate Director, Budget and
102 Resource Planning; Quincy Chapman, Director, Housing + Residence Life; Deborah Newman, Associate
103 Director, Housing + Residence Life; Ryan Banaszak, Assistant Director of Operations, Housing +
104 Residence Life; Kelly Holzer, Chair, University Staff Council; Evan Weiher, Jacob Wrasse, Government
105 and Community Relations Specialist, University Relations; Chair of University Senate; Mike Knuth,
106 Integrated Marketing and Communications; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Dang Yang,
107 Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Jamie Siseman, President, Residence Hall Association; Cathy
108 Weiss, Senior Architect, University of Wisconsin System Office of Capital Planning & Budget;
109 Pamela Guthman, DNP, RN-BC, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing; Tavin Swanberg, Horan
110 Hall Director, Students Encouraging Environmental Deeds Advisor, Housing + Residence Life

AUTHORED BY:

Lauren Becker, Director, Student Office of Sustainability Commission
Stephanie Hoeksema, Director, Equity in Student Matters Commission
Lillian Strehlow, Education Intern, Student Office of Sustainability Commission
Franny Donovan, On-Campus Student Senator
Grace Luloff, On-Campus Student Senator
Travis Duchene, Director, Academic Affairs Commission