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

WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Student Senate (Student Senate) is the
official voice of the student body; and
WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) strives to “foster in one
another creativity, critical insight, empathy, and intellectual courage, the hallmarks of a
transformative liberal education and the foundation for active citizenship and lifelong inquiry.”; and
WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is committed to the values of “Diversity and inclusiveness;
leadership; innovation and continuous improvement; stewardship and sustainability.”; and
WHEREAS, the United Nations defines sustainable development as “[…] meeting the needs
of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”; and
WHEREAS, the World Health Organization states “[Climate Change] threatens the essential
ingredients of good health - clean air, safe drinking water, nutritious food supply, and safe shelter -
and has the potential to undermine decades of progress in global health. […] Between 2030 and
2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from
malnutrition, malaria, diarrhea and heat stress alone. The direct damage costs to health is estimated to
be between USD 2-4 billion per year by 2030”; and
WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services states “Evidence and research
drawn from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) suggests […] climate and
health impacts [on] Precipitation Changes, Heat Extremes, Drought, Winter Weather Changes,
Disease Vectors, Surface Water, [and] Groundwater.”; and
WHEREAS, the fourth National Climate Assessment states “Impacts from climate change on
extreme weather and climate-related events, air quality, and the transmission of disease through
insects and pests, food, and water increasingly threaten the health and well-being of [people that live
in the United States], particularly populations that are already vulnerable.”; and
WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire as an educational institution is committed to strategic and
collaborative partnerships with numerous health care systems through over 300 signed affiliations,
including the Mayo Clinic Health System (Mayo Clinic); and
WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire seeks to continue growth in collaborative research with the Mayo Clinic, which was announced in June of 2017, through the proposed Sonnentag Event and Recreation Complex, the New Science Building; and

WHEREAS, the Mayo Clinic website states that Mayo Clinic strives to “[…] sustain and reinvest in our mission and extended communities by wisely managing our human, natural, and material resources.”; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, no construction participated in by UW-Eau Claire has undergone a third-party energy efficiency certification; and
WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has not implemented the construction standards required to reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 outlined within the Climate Action Plan; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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