UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT-UNIVERSITY 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 the University are the stated; 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 […] 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 Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C reports that “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 sequestration capacity of 585,297 trees planted and grown for ten years; approximately 2/3 of these emission are directly related to building use (electricity, heating and cooling); 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

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

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, the City of Eau Claire, and the Eau Claire Area School District; and
WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin - Madison, Stevens Point, Oshkosh, Milwaukee, Whitewater, River Falls, and La Crosse have each constructed one or more third-party certified energy efficient buildings; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has completed or is currently engaged-involved in two-three residence hall renovations and five-seven new construction projects in over the past two-decade-years; and

WHEREAS, none of these construction project participated in by have UW-Eau Claire has undergone a third-party energy efficiency certification; in short; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has not implemented the construction standards required to reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 outlined-committed to in 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

WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate passed a closely related companion resolution (63-R-12, from which this resolution was derived) by unanimous vote on Monday, October 22, 2019.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Student Senate calls upon its administration to reevaluate 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 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 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 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 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 University 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 FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Student University Senate at UW-Eau Claire will continue to demand accountability from the 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, Scott Beightsol, José Delgado, Michael M. Grebe, Eve Hall, Mike Jones, Tracey L. Klein, Becky Levdow, Edmund Manydeeds III, Janice Mueller, Andrew S. Petersen, Ciri Peterson, Jason R. Plante, Carolyn Stranford Taylor, Torrey Tiedeman, Karen Walsh, Gerald Whitburn, Olivia Woodmansee; Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Kimera Way, President, UW-Eau Claire Foundation, Executive Director of University Advancement; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Demetrius Smith, Program Director of EDI; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Michael Rindo, Assistant Chancellor for Facilities and University Relations; Troy Terhark, Director, Facilities; Chris Hessel, Associate Director of Facilities; Renee Strehlau, Campus Facilities Planner, Facilities; Anthony Rongstad, Sustainability Analyst; Tracy Drier, Associate Director, Budget and Resource Planning; Quincy Chapman, Director, Housing + Residence Life; Deborah Newman, Associate Director, Housing + Residence Life; Ryan Banaszak, Assistant Director of Operations, Housing + Residence Life; Kelly Holzer, Chair, University Staff Council; Evan Welker, Jacob Wrasse, Government and Community Relations Specialist, University Relations; Chair of University Senate; Mike Knuth, Integrated Marketing and Communications; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Jamie Sizeman, President, Residence Hall Association; Cathy Weiss, Senior Architect, University of Wisconsin System Office of Capital Planning & Budget; Pamela Guthman, DNP, RN-BC, Clinical Assistant Professor, College of Nursing; Tavin Swanberg, Horan Hall Director, Students Encouraging Environmental Deeds Advisor, Housing + Residence Life

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