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

WHEREAS, students in the Computer Science (CS) Department at UW-Eau Claire placed fourth out of ninety teams at a cybersecurity competition hosted by CypherCon 3.0 in the Spring of 2018; and

WHEREAS, students in the CS Department at UW-Eau Claire placed third out of ninety teams at a cybersecurity competition hosted by CypherCon 4.0 in the Spring of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the CS Department at UW-Eau Claire receives 25 foreign exchange students from the Changshu Institute of Technology in China as part of UWEC’s 1-2-1 exchange program each year; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, two students in the CS Department at the UW-Eau Claire are annually chosen to receive the David Karlgaard Scholarship of $4,000 for four years; and

WHEREAS, the CS Department has 408 declared majors as of the fall of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the average class size in the CS Department is 63 students with a minimum of 20 students and a maximum of 93 students in their classes; and

WHEREAS, students studying Physics, Graphic Design, Mathematics and Information Systems are also required to take various CS courses; and

WHEREAS, the CS Department has four full time faculty; and

WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin -La Crosse has 12 faculty distributed among a class sized of an average 24 students; and

WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin -Platteville has 14 faculty for over 400 CS students; and

WHEREAS, on November 6th, 2019, 22 students attended the Computer Science Open Forum hosted by Student Senate’s Academic Affairs Commission; and
WHEREAS, on November 14th, 2019, the Academic Affairs Director created the Computer Science Task Force comprised of the Student Senate Academic Affairs Director and five Computer Science majors; and

WHEREAS, the Computer Science Task Force is designed to address the issues facing the CS department by creating a one-year survival plan as well as a five-year long-term solution; and

WHEREAS, the Computer Science Task Force has and will continue to meet with administration to ensure the success of the CS Department; and

WHEREAS, on November 15th, 2019, approximately 250 students attended the Computer Science Open Forum hosted by Dr Rodd Freitag, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Student Senate supports the students and faculty of the Computer Science department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate calls upon the UW- Eau Claire administration to work with the Computer Science Task Force to develop solutions to the issues currently faced by the department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate calls upon the UW-Eau Claire administration to work with the Computer Science Task Force to increase communication with students regarding the condition of the CS Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate calls upon the UW- Eau Claire administration to hire more CS faculty for the Fall of 2020 and to implement emergency hires for the Spring of 2020 to reduce class sizes as outlined within the Computer Science Task Forces one-year plan; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor of Finance; Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management and Interim Director of ARCC; Michael Carney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Rodd Freitag, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Kelly Holzer, Chair, Staff Council; Dr. Jack Tan, Department Chair of the Computer Science Department; Dr. Heidi Gurung, Professor of Computer Science; Dr. Chris Johnson, Professor of Computer Science; Dr. Heather Amthauer, Professor of Computer Science;

SUBMITTED BY:

Travis DuChene, Director of Academic Affairs
Grace Luloff, On- Campus Senator
Mary Stoutenburg, On- Campus Senator