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 mission of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire are the stated values of the
University are “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 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, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global
Warming of 1.5° 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 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 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 involved in three residence hall renovations and seven new construction projects over the past decade and none of these construction project have undergone a third-party energy efficiency certification; in short, UW-Eau Claire has not implemented construction standards required to reach the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 committed to in the Climate Action Plan; 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 University Senate calls upon the University 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 University Senate calls on 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 University Senate calls on UW-Eau Claire and the University of Wisconsin System to collaborate with 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 University 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 University Senate calls upon UW-Eau Claire 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 scope of the New Science Building; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the University Senate calls upon the University 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 FINALLY RESOLVED, that the University Senate will continue to demand accountability from the University 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.

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