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

WHEREAS, the Student Senate values student housing and views affordable, quality housing as being integral to student success; and

WHEREAS, the lack of guidance from the University regarding on- and off-campus housing options results in students facing difficulties making educated housing decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate does not currently have regular, direct communication with Housing and Residence Life administration; and

WHEREAS, the array of existing housing-related tasks undertaken by Student Senate is shared by several individuals and commissions; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate sees the need for a Housing Coordinator position specifically dedicated to bettering on- and off-campus student housing; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Coordinator would assist in promoting student housing resources and offering educational tools; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Coordinator would manage communications with on-campus housing personnel and organizations, including, but not limited to, meeting with the Director of Housing and Residence Life once per month, attending every Residence Hall Association General Assembly meeting, and maintaining communication with other Housing organizations and attending meetings as needed; and

WHEREAS, the general responsibilities of the Housing Coordinator relating to off-campus housing would include, but not be limited to, educating students on tenants’ rights, maintaining communication with local landlords, organizing a week of tabling in the Fall to educate on-campus residents about moving off-campus, and maintaining the current partnership with Rent College Pads; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO)\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, changes within the University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly increased unexpected costs; and

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WHEREAS, the Student Senate recognizes that the creation of a new position within the Student Senate at this time would not be fiscally responsible; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the 63rd session of Student Senate is in support of creating the Housing Coordinator position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 64th session of Student Senate will reassess resources and finances to determine if the Housing Coordinator position can be created; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage, President Johnson will transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Quincy Chapman, Director of Housing and Residence Life; Deborah Newman, Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life; Ryan Banaszak, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life; Ben Bechle, Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life; Dr. Evan Weiher, Chair of University Senate; Jamie Siseman, Residence Hall Association President; Miranda Ricci, Student Body President at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Barron County.

SUBMITTED BY:
Travis DuChene, Academic Affairs Director and On-Campus Student Senator

Franny Donovan, On-Campus Student Senator

Hannah Yonker, On-Campus Student Senator

Lucy Chapman, Off-Campus Student Senator

Jamie Siseman, Residence Hall Association President