UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT of DEPARTMENTAL FEEDBACK AND GRADING TIMEFRAMES

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) Student Senate is the official voice of the student body; and
WHEREAS, the UWEC Student Senate holds the responsibility of advocating for the student body while offering equitable solutions for all parties at our institution; and
WHEREAS, the ongoing issue of communication between faculty and students has been escalated during the Coronavirus Pandemic, especially in terms of timely grading, feedback, email correspondence, and lenience with the emotional stresses associated; and
WHEREAS, while students also struggle with actively answering and communicating with faculty over email, there remains a growing concern with faculty not grading in a timely manner; and
WHEREAS, however, there is a clear distinction between the role of those who are students, and those who are educators; and
WHEREAS, there is an expectation on behalf of students when enrolling for courses that their contributions in the classroom be assessed in a timely and consistent way; and
WHEREAS, while most faculty members excel in responsiveness and feedback, those who do not threaten the reputation of UW-Eau Claire’s unmatched academics and faculty; and
WHEREAS, without a universally accepted timeframe for grades and feedback to be published, students may not be aware of their standing within a class prior to withdraw deadlines; and
WHEREAS, moreover, students may not improve on subsequent assignments with the absence of feedback for their prior work, damaging the entire framework of academia at this institution; and
WHEREAS, the need for the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to commit to a widespread expectation for grading grows, especially during the aftermath of emergency situations like the current pandemic; and
WHEREAS, a clear understanding of when students can expect their work to be graded, assuming it is submitted at a previously agreed upon deadline, will also encourage students to build strong and meaningful communication with their respective faculty members; and
WHEREAS, this timeframe should be included in all syllabuses, which we continue to encourage be distributed no later than the first week of course meetings; and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the UWEC Student Senate encourages all faculty to include a universal timeframe for grading in their syllabuses, and strongly abide by it; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we also urge the University Senate and all relevant committees to require faculty to incorporate this timeframe in their syllabuses; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should the Deans of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire not see the risks of abstaining from assigning such a timeframe, we push all individual department chairs and faculty to actively incorporate one in their courses; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage, President Ziebell will transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Grace
Crickette, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Chair of University Senate; Samantha Maurer, Residence Hall Association President; Justice Wesson, Student Body President at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Barron County; Dr. Linda Young, Dean of College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Dr. Rodd Freitag, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Carmen Manning, Dean of College of Education and Human Sciences; Dr. Brewer Doran, Dean of College of Business; Dr. Evan Weiher, Chair of University Senate; Jan Larson, Communication and Journalism Department Chair; Dr. Charlotte Sortedahl, Nursing Department Chair; Dr. Ling Liu, Accounting and Finance Interim Department Chair; Dr. Paula Lentz, Business Communication Program Director; Dr. Anthony Keys, Information Systems Department Chair; Dr. Kristy Lauver, Management and Marketing Department Chair; Dr. Debra Barker, American Indian Studies Director; Dr. Karen O'Day, Art and Design Department Chair; Dr. Paula Kleintjes, Biology Department Chair; Dr. James Phillips, Chemistry Department Chair; Dr. J. Erik Hendrickson, Computer Science, Physics and Astronomy Interim Department Chair; Dr. Thomas Kemp, Economics Department Chair; Dr. Jan Stirm, English Department Chair; Dr. Ezra Zeitler, Geography and Anthropology Department Chair; Dr. Phillip Ihinger, Geology Department Chair; Dr. Marquell Johnson, Rehabilitation Science Director and Academic Policies Committee Chair; Dr. Louisa Rice, History Department Chair; Dr. Matt Waters, Languages Department Chair; Dr. Manuel Fernández, Latin American and Latinx Studies Program Director; Dr. David Tschida, Communication and Journalism Director; Dr. Marc McEllistrem, Materials Science and Engineering Program Director; Dr. Alex Smith, Mathematics Department Chair; Dr. Gretchen Peters, Music and Theatre Arts Department Chair; Dr. Sean McAleer, Philosophy and Religious Studies Department Chair; Dr. Geoffrey Peterson, Political Science Department Chair; Dr. Jeffrey Goodman, Psychology Department Chair; Dr. Pam Forman, Sociology Department Chair; Dr. Rose-Marie Avin, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program Director; Dr. Sue Fondrie, Education Studies Department Chair; Dr. Cathy Thorsen, Special Education Department Chair; Dr. Abby Hemmerich, Communication Sciences and Disorders Department Chair; Dr. Jeffrey Janot, Kinesiology Department Chair; Dr. Leah Olson-McBride, Social Work Department Chair.

SUBMITTED BY:

Jaden Mikoulinskii – Academic Affairs Commission Director and Off-Campus Student Senator
Edison Flottemesch – Intergovernmental Affairs Director and Off Campus Student Senator
Harry Mateski – Academic Affairs Commission Member and On-Campus Student Senator
Rachel Hamele – Academic Affairs Commission Member and On-Campus Student Senator