

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE

**BILL: ADJUSTING THE BLUGOLD COMMITMENT FINANCIAL AID GRANT DISTRIBUTION PROCESS
NUMBER 64-B- 12 DATE: March 15th, 2021**

**INTRODUCED BY: Jaden Mikoulinskii, Director of Academic Affairs
Elizabeth TenBarge, Vice Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Commission
Anakah Denison, Vice Chairperson of the Academic Affairs Commission**

1 WHEREAS, the Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition (BCDT) spending plan for the 2021-
2 2022 fiscal year was approved by the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire; and

3 WHEREAS, this package includes an amendment to the previous parameters for Blugold
4 Commitment Grant distribution; and

5 WHEREAS, students currently pay \$1,063 each year in differential tuition; and

6 WHEREAS, 40% of BCDT revenue is set aside to provide financial assistance through the
7 financial aid office; and

8 WHEREAS, 37% is specifically allocated to the Blugold Commitment grant; and

9 WHEREAS, the Blugold Commitment grant serves to hold students with high need harmless
10 from Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition increase; and

11 WHEREAS, the last adjustment to the financial aid portion of Blugold Commitment was made in
12 November of 2010; and

13 WHEREAS, a more detailed outline of this year’s proposed changes can be found in Attachment
14 “A”; and

15 WHEREAS, the proposed adjustments to this allocation process will increase the accessibility of
16 financial support to high need students at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire; and

17 WHEREAS, these changes would assist an additional 350-400 students in paying for their
18 education; and

19 WHEREAS, this would increase Blugold Commitment Grant distribution for students with an
20 Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) of \$7,500 to \$10,000; and

21 WHEREAS, the FAFSA’s income threshold for an automatic EFC of zero is \$26,000 as of 2020-
22 2021; and

23 WHEREAS, this process would also expand access to the Blugold Commitment Special Grant
24 and the Blugold Study Abroad Grant for those with a \$12,000 EFC; and

25 WHEREAS, this shift in allocation will allow students who generally do not receive grant aid, but
26 demonstrate financial need, to gain access to grant support; and

27 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate approves
28 the proposed adjustments to the Blugold Commitment Grant distribution; and

29 BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, by supporting the proposed financial aid distribution changes, the
30 University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate is prioritizing students with high financial need and
31 is supporting retention efforts; and

32 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Ziebell transmit a copy to Dr. James
33 Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs;
34 Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration; Teresa O’Halloran, Interim Vice
35 Chancellor, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Student Affairs; Billy Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor,
36 Enrollment; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Michael Carney, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic
37 Affairs; Dr. Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Dr. Mary Hoffman, Director of Academic Planning and
38 Assessment; Stephanie Jamelske, Budget Officer of Academic Affairs; Nikki Andrews, Director of
39 Enrollment Management and Financial Aid, Director of Continuing Education; Justice Wesson, Student
40 Body President, UW-Eau Claire-Barron County.