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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, this process would also expand access to the Blugold Commitment Special Grant and the Blugold Study Abroad Grant for those with a $12,000 EFC; and
WHEREAS, this shift in allocation will allow students who generally do not receive grant aid, but demonstrate financial need, to gain access to grant support; and

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

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

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