

**The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
Intergovernmental Affairs Commission  
Legislative Priority Summary  
Fall 2021 (Attachment A)**

*Eau Claire Campus*

**A. Disabilities**

- i. Objective
  - i. Advocate for increased universal accessibility options within existing and new university constructions.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Increase amount as well as size of ADA Parking Spaces in the Flesch Family Welcome Center.
  - ii. Ensure the Sonnentag Event and Recreation Complex is compliant with ADA accessibility guidelines.

**B. Dining**

- i. Objective
  - i. Continue to provide input to the university and Sodexo regarding meal plans.
  - ii. Ensure that Sodexo continues to give students fair value for offered meal plans.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Appoint a dining liaison from the Intergovernmental Affairs Commission to attend and report on dining meetings when applicable.
  - ii. Integrate more clearly labeled and larger selection of gluten free food items.
  - iii. Ensure that all dietary restrictions are processed and available in a safe manner in on-campus dining locations, especially in times of “Grab-N-Go” meals due to COVID-19.
  - iv. Increase operation hours of the Hilltop Café and Davies Student Center Marketplace to accommodate for students.
  - v. Provide a larger array of vegetarian, gluten-free, vegan, and dairy-free food items.
  - vi. Work with the Communications Commission and Graphic Design Intern to create media and spread knowledge of the Campus Harvest Food Pantry to students.

**C. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

- i. Objective
  - i. Advocate and encourage the established EDI Initiative to grow the number of students of color enrolled in the university to 20% and close the opportunity gap per the 2016-2020 university strategic plan guidepost goal.

- ii. Advocate for increased EDI initiatives and retention for nontraditional marginalized groups.
- iii. Encourage diversity and inclusion within representative governing bodies on campus, as well as all organizations and groups on campus.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Coordinate with the Equity in Student Matters Directors to ensure that the standards are being met with this particular initiative.
  - ii. Work with the Student Organizations Commission to sponsor organizations for individuals of marginalized identities if they do not already exist.
  - iii. Implement “Rainbow Floors” into off-campus and upperclassmen residence halls.
  - iv. Coordinate with the Communications Director and Graphic Design Intern to better advertise and advocate for the GSRC.

**D. Mental Health and Counseling Services Advocacy**

- i. Objective
  - i. Advocate for and increase awareness of mental health issues and resources on campus.
  - ii. Increase the number of counselors with specialties in assisting marginalized identities.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Work with the Finance Commission to dissolve the \$80 financial fee for ADHD Screening for students, faculty, and staff.
  - ii. Coordinate with the Communications Director and Graphic Design Intern to better advertise and advocate for Counseling Services and its subsequent departments.
  - iii. Meet with the Dean of Students and Director of Counseling Services to ensure that applicants for employment are certified in assisting with individuals from marginalized identities.
  - iv. Encourage the Director of Counseling Services to remain transparent on wait times for intake appointments.

**E. Employment**

- i. Objective
  - i. Reduce waiting period for requested facility services.
  - ii. Alleviate stress of individually employed departments.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Work with facilities management to hire more university painters in order to resolve maintenance backlog.

City of Eau Claire

**A. Neighborhood Relations**

- i. Objective

- i. Improve and maintain relationships with the Historic Randall Park Neighborhood Association, Third Ward Neighborhood Association, and Eastside Hill Neighborhood Association.
  - ii. Collaborate with HRPNA and the Third Ward Neighborhood Association to increase transparency between them and the university.
  - iii. Evaluate relationships between the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and local businesses.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Organize social events within HRPNA and the Third Ward to get University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire engaged with non-university student residents.
  - ii. Establish liaison positions to the HRPNA and Third Ward Neighborhood Association.
  - iii. Plan and execute the Fall Community Walkthrough in order to provide outreach and establish community partnerships.

**B. Sonntag Event and Recreation Complex**

- i. Objective
  - i. Work to provide mass student input to university administration in the creation of the facility and determine functions that will best serve the Student Senate body.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. To ensure an informed student body, begin the viewpoint-neutral process of educating students about the complex.
  - ii. Lobby for increased and universal accessibility options within the project.
  - iii. Work with the Student Office of Sustainability to encourage sustainable practices within the project, including LEAD certification.

**C. City Ordinances**

- i. Objective
  - i. Reexamine city ordinances that disproportionately affect student populations.
  - ii. Provide educational opportunities for students to learn their position and rights within the city.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Research and find injustices within the city’s statues, ordinances, policies, and laws that affect a large amount of the university’s student population.
  - ii. Lobby in favor of students in each case to Eau Claire City Council, Eau Claire County Board, and other governing bodies of the area.
  - iii. Hold workshops, seminars, or other optional educational events to inform students of their rights with landlords, law enforcement, and other factions within the city.
  - iv. Investigate racial disparities within our community.

- v. Track the development of body camera ordinances for city police and ensure that protocols are in place to adequately utilize cameras and footage.

## State of Wisconsin

### **A. Student Loan Refinancing**

- i. Objective
  - i. Encourage lawmakers to take student input into consideration when creating policy.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Conduct personal lobbying trips to Madison Wisconsin for advocacy and improvement on these issues.

### **B. Funding to the UW System**

- i. Objective
  - i. Ensure the University of Wisconsin System remains adequately funded in order to provide the highest level of education.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Lobby on behalf of the University of Wisconsin system as a whole with a student perspective as to why proper funding is necessary for a successful education.
  - ii. Engage Legislators in discussion regarding this topic through personal lobbying trips or correspondence.

### **C. State Policies**

- i. Objective
  - i. Reexamine state bills that disproportionately affect student populations.
- ii. Implementation
  - i. Research and find injustices within the states statues, ordinances, policies, and laws that affect a large amount of the universities and UW systems student population.
  - ii. Lobby in favor of students in each case to the Wisconsin State Legislature, representatives of the Eau Claire area, and all others deemed appropriate.
  - iii. Provide adequate educational opportunities for students to learn their position and rights within the state of Wisconsin and nation.

## Federal Policies

- i. Objective
  - i. Speak to the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire's legislative delegations at a federal level to advocate for students on issues that pertain to them.
  - ii. Advocate for greater focus on student loan issues within the state legislature.
- ii. Implementation

- i. Meet with Representative Kind and Representative Emerson to advocate for the addition of the Phase II Science & Health Science in the 2023 Wisconsin State Budget.
- ii. Lobby in favor of students to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and members of the House Committee on Education and Labor for change at a state and federal level.
- iii. Work to discuss and provide solutions for the reformation of the free application for federal student aid.
- iv. Collaborate with state and national organization to advocate for changes to Title IX regulations as they pertain to survivors of sexual assault.
- v. Work to increase the efficacy of federal relief funds for students and universities in times of crisis.
- vi. Coordinate with President Mikoulinskii to advocate for the TRIO program at a federal level.
- vii. Coordinate with President Mikoulinskii to advocate for changes to the Code of Conduct policies within the State Supreme Court.