UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE STUDENT SENATE

Bill: Special Allocation: Services for Students with Disabilities
NUMBER 65-B-3    DATE: November 22, 2021
INTRODUCED BY: Nicholas Johnson, Director, Finance Commission

WHEREAS, the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office is tasked with facilitating accommodations and services for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, these accommodations and services are required by state and federal law in order to ensure equal access to programs, activities, and services at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, the SSD office collaborates with all departments within the EDISA division of the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Executive Administration; and

WHEREAS, this collaboration is critical to connecting students with disabilities to resources that ensure equally accessible educational and social experiences; and

WHEREAS, the SSD office strives to “Continue our Commitment to eliminate the opportunity gap,” in alignment with the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Access Coordinator position within the SSD office is engaged in several levels’ advocacy for students with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the responsibilities of the Access Coordinator include reviewing student documentation for eligibility for services and accommodations, meets with the student in an interactive process, refers students to respective resources based on needs, arranges for tutoring, and provides advocacy with instructors and other departments on campus; and

WHEREAS, the Access Coordinator position within the SSD office is mandated by federal law; and

WHEREAS, in the past ten years the number of students registered for services through the SSD office has increased from 203 to 806; and

WHEREAS, the current caseload for the single fulltime caseworker is 896 students; and

WHEREAS, the system average caseload per caseworker is 368 students; and

WHEREAS, the number of students registered for services is projected to increase; and

WHEREAS, the addition of one fulltime caseworker will decrease the caseload to approximately 400 students; and

WHEREAS, the SSD office approached the Student Senate Finance Commission with a proposal for funds to hire an additional Access Coordinator for a fixed two-year term; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of this request is $148,000; and
WHEREAS, fixed-term staff salaries and fringe benefits are a permitted use of Segregated University Fee funds under UW-System Policy 820; and

WHEREAS, following a presentation from the SSD office, the Finance Commission approved the full $148,000 allocation request; and

WHEREAS, the voting margin for this proposal was 7-1-1;

WHEREAS, the Student Senate is the official representative of the student body; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Senate to assist in increasing the accessibility of resources that directly benefit students; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate has the financial capability to support the addition of an Access Coordinator position within the SSD office;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that upon passage, the Student Senate will allocate $148,000 for the addition of a fixed-term Access Coordinator position with the SSD office;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Mikoulinskii will transmit a copy of this bill to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Olga Diaz, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Tracy Drier, Director, Budget and Resource Planning; Jacqueline Kriesel, Controller, Administration & Finance; Vicky Thomas, Director, Services for Students with Disabilities; Evan Wheier, Chair, University Senate; Grace Arrigoni, Student Body President, UW Eau Claire-Barron County; Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus Director, UW Eau Claire-Barron County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Expenditure</th>
<th>Cost per Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed-term Staff: Salary</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fixed-term Staff: Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$24,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Fixed term of two years</em></td>
<td>$74,000.00 * 2 = $148,000.00</td>
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