UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE

BILL: Creation of an Ad-Hoc Vacancy Committee
NUMBER: 66-B-3 DATE: September 12, 2022
INTRODUCED BY: Nicholas Johnson, Student Body Vice President

WHEREAS, every Spring semester, a student body election is conducted to fill 30 Student Senate seats, as well as the offices of Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, Senator seats that are not filled upon the certification of the election results, or that become empty due to the resignation of a Senator are deemed “vacant”; and

WHEREAS, vacancies are common occurrence; and

WHEREAS, the current amount of vacancies is higher than usual; and

WHEREAS, the process of filling vacancies includes the creation of an ad-hoc Vacancy Committee; and

WHEREAS, per the bylaws, the passage of a bill is required for the creation of an ad-hoc committee; and

WHEREAS, based on historical knowledge, it is unlikely that previous sessions have complied with this mandate; and

WHEREAS, the Vacancy Committee shall be chaired by the Student Body Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, the Vacancy Committee shall be co-chaired by the Student Body Vice-President; and

WHEREAS, the Senate Personnel Director shall have a dedicated seat on the Vacancy Committee; and

WHEREAS, other than the chair, co-chair, and Senate Personnel Director, the Vacancy Committee shall be composed of no more than two Student Senators, and no more than two members of the Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this committee is to review the applications of interested students, and to interview candidates who meet the criteria for Student Senator seats; and

WHEREAS, following this process, the Vacancy Committee relays its recommendations to the Student Body President for confirmation; and

WHEREAS, following bylaw revisions in the spring, the filling of vacancies is no longer beholden to the on-campus and off-campus distinction of the student body election process; and
WHEREAS, this bylaw revision was done to eliminate the housing barrier of joining Student Senate as it applies to filling vacant seats; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the filling of seats on the Vacancy Committee shall be done by the normal nomination process within the personnel section following the passage of this bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ad-hoc committee shall be dissolved automatically upon the filling of all vacant Senator Seats unless otherwise directed by the Student Senate, or upon the passage of a motion to that end if not all Senator seats are successfully filled; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Gaitan will transmit a copy of this bill to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Greggory Heinselman, 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; Evan Wheier, Chair, University Senate; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body President, UW Eau Claire-Barron County; Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus Director, UW Eau Claire-Barron County