



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT SENATE ACTION

TO: The Chancellor

REFERRAL DATE: 2.15.22

RE: Student Senate Resolution

DATE of Senate Action: 2.14.22

FROM: Jade Mikoulin
Student Body President

LEGISLATION NUMBER: 65-R-21

LEGISLATION TITLE: In Support of a Carbon Neutral Science and Health Science Building

APPROVAL BY: Passed 23-1-2

Text attached.

Appropriate response is requested within one calendar week. Please notify the Student Senate by completing this form, returning one copy to the Student Senate Office, and one copy to the Dean of Students.

Initial the following:

Received/Acknowledged
 Assigned/referred to (if appropriate): _____

Further Comments:

Chancellor's Signature

2-22-22
Date

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

**IN SUPPORT OF A CARBON-NEUTRAL SCIENCE AND
HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING**

1 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) Student Senate is the
2 official voice of the student body; and

3 WHEREAS, the Student Office of Sustainability recognizes sustainability is found at the
4 intersection of public wellbeing, ecological health, and economic prosperity; and

5 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire 2025 Strategic Plan states: “Our value of sustainability and
6 commitment to preserving and enhancing not only the natural beauty of our campuses, but also
7 our built environment and the relationships that define the health and equity of our communities
8 and region”¹; and

9 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire 2025 Strategic Plan states that the university will “work to
10 achieve carbon neutrality by 2050” and “implement carbon-free and reduced carbon systems”¹;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire 2018 Climate Action Plan² proposed to benchmark goals for
13 carbon neutrality by 2050, with 20 percent total emissions reduction by 2020 and 50 percent
14 total emissions reduction by 2030; and

15 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire 2018 Climate Action Plan² states an objective to “create
16 policies to support sustainable building design and construction” and “include sustainability
17 policies in all construction and renovation projects”; and,

18 WHEREAS, the Sustainability and Climate Action Task Force³, formally charged by the
19 Chancellor, created a set of formal recommendations finalized in 2021; and,

20 WHEREAS, both the UW-Eau Claire Student Senates⁵ and the UW-Eau Claire University
21 Senates⁶ have called on the university to have all newly constructed buildings to be third party
22 sustainability certified; and

23 WHEREAS, the Task Force’s recommendations include “model specific sustainability and
24 climate action practices across the UWEC campuses” with “campus certifications” such as LEED
25 for green buildings; and,

26 WHEREAS, the UW-Eau Claire 2025 Strategic Plan states that the university will “seek
27 third-party certification for new buildings”; and

28 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change Report⁴
29 includes a “State lead by example” policy: “Set a policy of incorporating renewable energy
30 generation into all new construction and increase the amount of renewable energy the State and
31 UW System purchase to achieve 100 percent carbon-free energy before 2050”; and

32 WHEREAS, an increasing number of United States colleges and universities, such as
33 Carleton College⁷ in Minnesota and Ball State University⁸ in Indiana, are utilizing geothermal
34 district energy sources to meet climate and carbon neutrality goals; and

35 WHEREAS, our sister university UW-Stout⁹ has and continues to seek additional
36 opportunities to add solar panels to power their campus; and

37 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire students want to see the university value of and commitment
38 to sustainability and climate action in practice within every facet of UW-Eau Claire; and

39 WHEREAS, the Science and Health Sciences Building will have high energy demand, so it
40 is imperative to take the steps to decarbonize it; and

41 WHEREAS, not prioritizing the science behind climate change and its impacts in the
42 planning and development of the new Science and Health Sciences Building is irresponsible,
43 especially with the aforementioned climate and carbon neutrality commitments; and

44 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate strongly urges that the
45 new Science and Health Sciences Building be carbon neutral; and

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate supports the UW-Eau Claire
47 Science and Health Sciences Building Design Committee in implementing more bold and
48 ambitious sustainability and carbon-neutrality features; and

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate encourages exploration of
50 LEED Certification for the Science and Health Sciences Building in order to ensure accountability
51 for sustainability features; and

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate is willing to support carbon
53 neutrality in the new Science and Health Sciences Building in whatever means necessary and
54 possible; and

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate recommends ceasing all
56 future construction efforts until the design and mission of the building can be reevaluated;

57 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage, President Mikoulinskii will transmit a copy
58 of this resolution to Dr. James C. Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice
59 Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Olga Diaz, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion &
60 Student Affairs; Billy Felz, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management; Grace Crickette, Vice
61 Chancellor of Finance and Administration; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Brian Drollinger,
62 Director of Risk Management, Safety, and Sustainability; Dr. Evan Weiher, Chair of University
63 Senate; Michael Carney, Assistant Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and Program
64 Development; Troy Terhark, Director of Facilities; Renee Strehlau, Campus Facilities Planner;
65 Anthony Rongstad, Facilities Engineer / Sustainability Specialist; Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus
66 Director at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Barron County; Grace Arrigoni, Student Body
67 President at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Barron County; Jeremy Gragert, Member, Eau
68 Claire City Council; Andrew Werthmann, Member, Eau Claire City Council; Kate Beaton, Member,
69 Eau Claire City Council; Ned Noel, Senior Planner, City of Eau Claire; Kristine Anderson, Senior
70 Project Manager, Wisconsin Department of Administration (Facilities Development and
71 Management); Beth Prochaska, President and CEO, Potter Lawson Inc.; Robert Managas,
72 Architect, Potter Lawson; Cathy Weiss, Senior Architect, University of Wisconsin System Office of
73 Administration (Capital Planning Budget); Peter Davis, Director of Engineering, University of
74 Wisconsin System Office of Administration (Capital Planning Budget); Daniel Niewoehner,
75 Regional Leader of Science and Technology, HOK; Dallas Felder, Senior Project Designer, HOK;
76 Cristine Hart, Project Manager, HOK; Scott Lawson, Senior Architectural Design Professional,
77 HOK; Doug Schorr, Division of Facilities Development, State of Wisconsin; Joss Hurford, Building
78 Performance Consultant, AEI Affiliated Engineers;

Submitted By:

Student Office of Sustainability Commission
Maddie Loeffler, Director, Student Office of Sustainability
Molly Larson, Education Intern, Student Office of Sustainability

1. <https://www.uwec.edu/files/7279/Strategic-Plan-2025-booklet-for-web.pdf>
2. <https://www.uwec.edu/files/5205/Climate-Action-Plan-2018.pdf>
3. <https://www.uwec.edu/files/7057/Sustainability-Task-Force-Recommendations-4-21.pdf>
4. <https://climatechange.wi.gov/Documents/Final%20Report/GovernorsTaskForceonClimateChangeReport-LowRes.pdf>
5. UW-Eau Claire Student Senate 63-R-12
6. UW-Eau Claire University Senate Resolution "Calling On All New Buildings, Constructed by or Constructed Through Participation of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, to Undergo Sustainability Certification by a Third Party"
7. <https://energynews.us/2022/02/07/colleges-see-untapped-potential-in-geothermal-district-energy-systems/>
8. <https://www.bsu.edu/academics/centersandinstitutes/cote/sustainability/carbon>
9. <https://www.uwstout.edu/life-stout/sustainability-stout/buildings-energy>

