

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE

BILL: Creation of an Ad-Hoc Vacancy Committee for the 67th Session

NUMBER: 66-B-24 **DATE:** April 24, 2023

INTRODUCED BY: Brett Farmer, Student Body Vice President, Student Body President Elect

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

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

8 WHEREAS, vacancies are common occurrence following an election and throughout each
9 session; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, following bylaw revisions in the spring of 2022, the filling of vacancies is no longer
24 beholden to the on-campus and off-campus distinction of the student body election process, but rather
25 all vacancies assessed on an “at-large” basis; and

26 WHEREAS, the Ad-Hoc Vacancy Committee may consider all candidates in the previous election
27 who completed petitions as automatic applicants to the vacancy process; and

28 WHEREAS, it is the at the discretion of the chair how to conduct and structure the interview
29 process for applicants; and

30 WHEREAS, following this process, the Vacancy Committee relays its recommendations for the
31 exact amount of current vacancies to the Student Body President for confirmation and to be appointed;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the Vacancy Committee may also relay additional recommendations to be
34 considered automatically and appointed to fill any future vacancies; and

35 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, following the passage of this bill, this Ad-Hoc Committee will
36 be formed immediately following the start (the appointments of the newly-elected senators) of
37 the 67th session; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the filling of seats on the Vacancy Committee shall be
39 done by the normal nomination process within Personnel following the passage of this bill; and

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this ad-hoc committee shall be dissolved automatically
41 following the final vacancy process of the 67th session, upon the conclusion of the 67th session, or
42 at the discretion of the chair; and

43 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this bill, President Gaitán will transmit a
44 copy of this bill to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Gregory Heinselman, Dean of Students; Dr.
45 Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor,
46 Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Teresa
47 O'Halloran, Interim Assistant Chancellor of EDI; Selika Ducksworth, Interim Executive Director for
48 EDI Engagement; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body
49 President, UW Eau Claire-Barron County; Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus Director, UW Eau Claire-
50 Barron County