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

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

WHEREAS, the Ad-Hoc Vacancy Committee may consider all candidates in the previous election who completed petitions as automatic applicants to the vacancy process; and
WHEREAS, it is the at the discretion of the chair how to conduct and structure the interview process for applicants; and

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this bill, President Gaitán 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; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Teresa O’Halloran, Interim Assistant Chancellor of EDI; Selika Ducksworth, Interim Executive Director for EDI Engagement; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body President, UW Eau Claire-Barron County; Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus Director, UW Eau Claire-Barron County