UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

Calling on the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire to Add Voting to the List of Authorized Absences

WHEREAS, youth voter turnout in Wisconsin reached record levels in the 2022 November General Election, showing more young people want to exercise their voting privileges (1); and

WHEREAS, In Ward 20, which houses the upper campus dormitories, saw a 656 percent increase in turnout in the Wisconsin 2023 February Primary Election compared to the primary in 2022; and

WHEREAS, many students reported that their professors gave them time off of class to go and vote, as well as incentives like extra credit for proving that they had voted; and

WHEREAS, average youth voter turnout in the State of Wisconsin is just 42 percent (2); and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin allows same day voter registration, which creates opportunities for students to vote where they reside for school, if they forgot to vote absentee; and

WHEREAS, Students who have forgotten to vote absentee and prefer to vote at home, will have the ability to travel back home on election day to vote if they so choose, because they will have the ability to authorize any absence from class; and

WHEREAS, many students are unsure about how to vote in Wisconsin. Allowing students an authorized absence from classes on election day, would allow students time to gather the necessary documents, and find their polling location. This could potentially reduce lines as students will have more available time to cast their ballot and will be more prepared. Additionally, this will reduce confusion, and streamline the process for polling workers. Especially with students who are registering for the first time, or re-registering to vote; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, calls upon the University Executive Committee and University Provost to add voting to the list of authorized absences at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this bill, President Gaitan will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management; Gregory Heinselman, Dean of Students; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire-Barron County; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate

AUTHORED BY:
Matthew Lehner, At Large Student Senator

SOURCES: