WHEREAS, in the proposed 2011-2013 Biennial Budget, UW-Madison and the rest of the UW System will receive a proposed cut of $250 million; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is planned to receive an 11% reduction in state aid; and

WHEREAS, these cuts will have a negative effect on the University and the students of UW-Eau Claire if the UW System is not given the tools to deal with the proposed cuts; and

WHEREAS, state funding received through block grants instead of “silos” would provide substantial flexibility in budgeting and allow the University to re-purpose funds to deal with cuts; and

WHEREAS, the State’s strict controls over universities’ HR policies and pay plans make it impossible for the University to compete for talented professors, administrators and staff in a global marketplace; and
WHEREAS, current regulations on construction projects increase the costs of construction to the University and delay the project’s completion; and

WHEREAS, the UW System is currently prohibited from managing its long-term investments and from retaining interest gained on those investments; and

WHEREAS, these investments would allow for the creation of endowments for increased financial aid, new academic and support structures or financial flexibility; and

WHEREAS, the UW System is prohibited from independent procurement and must instead purchase through the Department of Administration although less expensive and local options exist; and

WHEREAS, the ability for individual Universities to set tuition is a crucial flexibility for University operations; and

WHEREAS, the UW System currently maintains a strong partnership with students and a history of student input on tuition increases; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire’s Blugold Commitment Differential Tuition policy involves substantial student control and has a strong track record of success; and

WHEREAS, the students of UW-Eau Claire recognize the concerns facing the UW System; and
WHEREAS, this proposal would keep UW-Madison inside of the UW System, but provide the flexibilities it is seeking through the New Badger Partnership; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Idea Partnership proposal would address the aforementioned issues facing the UW System;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Student Senate, on behalf of the over 11,000 students of UW-Eau Claire, supports the proposed Wisconsin Idea Partnership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate renews its opposition in the proposal of splitting UW-Madison from the UW System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate suggests that the Wisconsin Idea Partnership should include student approval for raises in tuition above levels for cost to continue current operations, including cuts from the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that established differential tuition programs should remain intact and not be rolled into the new tuition setting authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate suggests UW System should adapt its proposal to ensure student approval of tuition increases above cost to continue levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Student Senate suggests that the State Legislature should approve the Wisconsin Idea Partnership amendment to the 2011-2013 state budget; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage President Jambrek transmit copies of this resolution to all UW Chancellors and Interim Chancellors; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Brian Carlisle, Dean of Students; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor, Budget and Finance; Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Mike Rindo, Interim Assistant Chancellor, Facilities; all UW Student Representatives; Dr. Kevin Reilly, President, UW-System; Charles Pruitt, President, UW System Board of Regents; Nicole Juan, Executive Director, United Council; Michael Miscicke, Government Relations Director, United Council; Erika Wolf, Advocacy Field Organizer, United Council; Todd Nordgren, Field Director, United Council; Kirk Cychosz, President, United Council; Janna Caspersen, Vice President, United Council; Maxwell Love, Secretary, United Council; Scott Walker, Governor of Wisconsin; Representative Warren Petryk, Senator Kathleen Vinehout; Senator Alberta Darling; Senator Luther Olsen, Senator Sheila Harsdorf,; Senator Joe Leibham; Senator Glenn Gothman; Senator Randy Hopper; Senator Lena Taylor; Senator Robert Jauch; Representative Robin Vos; Representative Dan Myer, Representative Dan LeMahieu; Representative John Nygren; Representative Pat Strachota; Representative Joel Kleefisch; Representative Tamara Grigsby; Representative Jennifer Shilling; Senator Dan Kapanke;
Representative Steve Nass; Representative Dean Knudson; Representative Joan Ballweg; Representative Donald Pridemore; Representative Daniel Knodl; Representative Paul Farrow; Representative Evan Wynn; Representative Barbara Toles; Representative Terese Berceau; Representative Louis Molepske, Jr.; Representative Gordon Hintz; Senator Neal Kedzie; Senator Terry Moulton; Senator Dave Hansen; Senator Jim Holperin; and Representative Kathy Bernier.

SUBMITTED BY:
Dylan Jambrek, Student Body President
Mark Morgan, Academic Affairs Commission Director
and On-Campus Senator
Ben Krall, Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director
and On-Campus Senator
March 28, 2011