SA 0910-023: Resolution Endorsing the Academic Initiatives Differential Tuition Program

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WHEREAS; the Academic Initiatives differential tuition program was created and then approved by the UW-System Board of Regents in the 2003-2004 academic year; and,

WHEREAS; the UW-System Board of Regents requires a reassessment of campus differential tuition plans every five years; and,

WHEREAS; the initial program was focused around four initiatives, which were: advising, research, internationalization, and diversity; and,

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Karly Wallace Date  
President, Student Senate
Vice-President, Student Association

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Erik Kahl Date  
President, Student Association
WHEREAS; the University originally contributed to the program by matching every student dollar for dollar, but the University no longer has the money to fulfill their share of the Academic Initiatives differential tuition match; and,

WHEREAS; all students were assessed an initial $20 per semester in the first year of the program (2003-2004); that fee increased to $26 dollars the subsequent year and since then, has increased to its current amount of $30 per semester; and,

WHEREAS; the Academic Initiatives Differential tuition program currently funds the Academic Advising Center, the Office of Campus Climate, Disability Resource Services, an Admissions diversity recruiter, undergraduate and graduate research grants, international education stipends, additional Murphy Library hours, and the Learning Center, which provides tutoring in writing, math, and science; and,

WHEREAS; the Academic Initiatives Assessment Task Force has worked since October 2008 year to collect data from the programs receiving funding through the Academic Initiative differential tuition; and,

WHEREAS; the data collected shows that the number of undergraduate and graduate research proposals have increased in number since 2004 as well as the requested dollar amount of these proposals; and,

WHEREAS; the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire contributes $539,000 to undergraduate research in comparison to UW-L’s contribution of $123,200; and,

WHEREAS; the number of international students coming to UW-L and the number of student studying abroad has increased since 2004; and,

WHEREAS; the Academic Advising Center was created because of the Academic Initiatives differential tuition and in 2007, the Academic Advising Center had 826 assigned advisees and 3,529 walk-ins and appointments; and,

WHEREAS; the overall enrollment of students of color has increased 23% since 2004; and,

WHEREAS; Awareness Through Performance, a program supported by the Office of Campus Climate, received the 2009 Program Achievement Diversity Award from the State of Wisconsin’s Council on Affirmative Action and Office of State Employment Relations; and,
WHEREAS; Disability Resource Services has seen an increase in the demand in the amount of testing support for students with disabilities; and,

WHEREAS; the Learning Center received nearly 7,500 visits in the 2007-2008 academic school year and this number is expected to increase due to increased visibility by the relocation to Murphy Library; and,

WHEREAS; LibQual surveys have indicated that students are requesting expanded library hours; and,

WHEREAS; due to increased enrollment and a greater demand for research materials, Murphy Library cannot continue financially supporting the databases that are essential for program accreditations; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate shows full support for sustaining and enhancing the Academic Initiatives differential tuition program; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the UWLSA President Erik Kahl and Vice-President Karly Wallace forward a copy of this resolution to the following: University of Wisconsin System President Kevin Reilly, University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Chancellor Joe Gow, and any other individuals they deem appropriate.