

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

IN CONDEMNATION OF RACISM WITHIN OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY

1 WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s (UW-Eau Claire) mission is
2 “fulfill[ed] through a pervasive university commitment to provide [...] an inclusive campus
3 community that challenges students to develop their intellectual, personal, cultural, and social
4 competencies”; and

5 WHEREAS, on Sunday, September 15th of this year, a Red Lake Chippewa Nation of
6 Ojibwe student living within the Department of Housing and Residence Life’s care was subject
7 to an act of targeted, racist vandalism on the door of their residence; and

8 WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 annual report of the Bias Incident Response Team
9 (BIRT) shows over 80 occurrences of prejudicial bias towards members of the campus
10 community with identities that have been historically marginalized; and

11 WHEREAS, the Bias Incident Response Team acknowledges that the annual report is
12 only a fraction of the incidences of bias that occur at UW-Eau Claire; and

13 WHEREAS, the 2018-2019 annual report of the Bias Incident Response Team shows
14 instances of targeted, hateful, racist speech in over ten different University Owned and Operated
15 facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire states goal within their administrative division of Equity,
17 Diversity, and Inclusion of "provid[ing] an exceptional experience for students and a campus
18 community where all members of UW-Eau Claire thrive and succeed"; and

19 WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Residence Life at UW-Eau Claire states that
20 its mission is “to promote student learning and success through engagement in diverse
21 educational and social experiences, and supports residents by providing well-maintained, safe,
22 and inclusive communities”; and

23 WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Residence Life at UW-Eau Claire’s
24 Inclusivity Statement states that the department is “dedicated to creating a safe, equitable,
25 and nurturing environment for all members of [their] residence life community”; and

26 WHEREAS, the Inclusivity Statement further states that “each individual
27 has the right to feel welcomed, valued, and included with appreciation for one’s age, ability,
28 color, creed, cultural heritage, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, national origin, race,
29 spiritual affinity, sexual orientation [..and] uphold[s] the belief that there is no
30 place for harassment, intimidation, threats, ridicule, or violence toward any member of [their] co-
31 mmunity”; and

32 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, September 18th of this year, the UW-Eau Claire Inter-Tribal
33 Student Council hosted an informational panel to discuss the presence of racism within our
34 campus community, specifically highlighting the experiences of Native students; and

35 WHEREAS, on Wednesday, September 18th of this year, administration of the UW-
36 Eau Claire Department of Housing and Residence Life failed to attend the informational and
37 educational panel provided by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Inter-Tribal Student
38 Council; and

39 WHEREAS, this instance of targeted, racist vandalism has generated a city-wide,
40 statewide, and nationwide discourse on targeted racist speech; and

41 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is recognized as a Predominantly White Institution with
42 over 88% White student enrollment; and

43 WHEREAS, it is recognized that this instance of targeted, hateful, racist speech is only
44 one product of a much further expansive context of oppressed individuals in a country with roots
45 deeply engrained in institutional and systemic racism, among several other forms of
46 discrimination; and

47 WHEREAS, this institutional and systemic oppression continues to affect the lives of
48 those individuals and groups on a daily basis with regards to disparity of wages, accessibility to
49 education, fairness within the criminal justice system, acclimating to predominantly white
50 communities, representation within governments, bias perpetrated in representations through
51 mainstream media, and accessibility to positions of power; and

52 WHEREAS, the hateful rhetoric perpetrated is exercised deliberately to negatively impact
53 the psychological health of this and other Students of Color and instill fear for their safety;

54 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Student Senate at the University of Wisconsin-
55 Eau Claire calls upon its administration to re-evaluate its current campus climate within the
56 framework of advancing towards a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment; and

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate calls upon its
58 administration to take deliberate and decisive action that seeks to provide education and
59 resources that exposes students to diverse backgrounds and can foster an inclusive and equitable
60 environment for its students, faculty, staff and administration; and

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate at the UW-Eau Claire will
62 continue to demand accountability from its administration regarding the cultivation of a shared
63 space that can allow all the students within its institution to be successful; and

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the perpetrator(s) of the racist incident on September
65 15th of this year is or are identified, the Student Senate at the UW-Eau Claire calls upon its
66 administration to execute immediate sanctions, whereby expulsion should be considered from
67 our campus community in order to prioritize the safety of those who identify as traditionally
68 underrepresented over the education of a racist; and

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate at the UW-Eau Claire will not
70 tolerate instances of targeted hate speech toward the members of their campus community; and

71 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson
72 will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice
73 Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Holly Hassemer, University Senate; Chris Jorgenson, Director,
74 Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, BIRT Committee; Teresa O'Halloran, Director,
75 Affirmative Action, BIRT Committee; Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management;
76 Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural
77 Affairs, BIRT Committee; Demetrius Smith, Program Director of EDI, BIRT Committee; John
78 Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Quincy Chapman, Housing and
79 Residence Life Director; Deborah Newman, Housing and Residence Life Associate Director,
80 BIRT Committee; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students, BIRT Committee; Mike Knuth, Integrated
81 Marketing and Communications, BIRT Committee; Jay S. Dobson, University Police

SUBMITTED BY

Stephanie Hoeksema, Equity in Student Matters Director
Lauren Becker, Student Office of Sustainability Director
Travis DuChene, Academic Affairs Director
Austin Gulbrandson, Intergovernmental Affairs Director
Grace Luloff, On-Campus Senator
Mary Stoutenburg, On-Campus Senator
Pazoua Vue, Off-Campus Senator
Anna Ziebell, Vice President