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

WHEREAS, the city council of Eau Claire declared that the second Monday of October is to be officially recognized as Indigenous People’s Day via a resolution in 2017; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is celebrating October 14th as Indigenous People’s Day this year; and

WHEREAS, the importance of Indigenous People’s Day allows society to reimagine what was previously known as Columbus Day; and

WHEREAS, recognizing it as Indigenous People’s Day changes it from the dedication to colonialism into a day that highlights the truth about the genocide and oppression that indigenous people have faced and continue to face; and

WHEREAS, the idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous People’s Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas, held in Geneva, Switzerland, which passed as a resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Council Oak Tree served as a peaceful meeting place for the leaders of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations to discuss resolutions during the 18th and 19th century; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Multicultural Affairs is hosting the Indigenous People’s Day Ceremony to re-introduce the UWEC University Seal, which contains the Council Oak Tree, and unveil the 12 Wisconsin tribal nation flags in Davies, on October 14th, 2019; and

WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire is home to more than 100 Indigenous students; and

WHEREAS, supporting and creating inclusive narratives, such as establishing Indigenous People’s Day, is necessary to align with the University’s EDI Initiatives;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate officially recognizes the second Monday of October as Indigenous People’s Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate will call on the administration to continue to recognize and support the second Monday of October as Indigenous People’s Day and acknowledge the historical importance it contributes to campus; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate will support current and future University initiatives aimed at improving our campus climate for people of color; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Evan Weiher, University Senate; Chris Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Demetrius Smith, Program Director Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; Heather Ann Moody, Assistant Professor, American Indian Studies, Faculty Advisor to Inter-Tribal Student Council; Debra K. Barker, Director of American Indian Studies

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