

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

**IN CONDEMNATION OF RACIST DISCOURSE AMONG SELECT MEMBERS OF  
THE BLUGOLD FOOTBALL TEAM**

1           WHEREAS, on the evening of Tuesday November 19, 2019, media documentation was  
2 made public showing several members of the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire (UW-Eau  
3 Claire) Football team directly inciting violence through racist discourse; and

4           WHEREAS, the messages shared by the players used rhetoric historically utilized to justify  
5 past and present acts of hatred and dehumanization against members of marginalized groups; and

6           WHEREAS, this discourse intentionally surrounded violent actions about a gathering by  
7 the Ku Klux Klan including cross-burning, a symbol of intimidation towards marginalized groups;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, the messages directly targeted a UW-Eau Claire student group with a  
10 historically marginalized background known as Black Male Empowerment (BME); and

11           WHEREAS, the president of Black Male Empowerment has stated publicly on Facebook  
12 that the organization “was designed to help change the perception of African American Males on  
13 a predominantly white campus, along with exemplifying the black excellence that these young  
14 men display on a daily basis”; and

15           WHEREAS, a public statement In Solidarity with Students by the Office of Multicultural  
16 Affairs staff stated that narratives with this type of humor “reinforce the validity of violence against  
17 members of those communities”; and

18           BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Student Senate at UW-Eau Claire  
19 acknowledges that although the messages were directed towards a specific marginalized group on  
20 campus, the effects of the messages are felt by numerous students and groups with historically  
21 marginalized identities; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate condemns to the highest possible extent  
23 the racist discourse based in an incitement of violence, as well as any additional, past or present,  
24 forms of oppression; and

25           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate calls upon its  
26 administration to demonstrate exemplary behavior and not follow the trends of other universities  
27 who have failed to hold students accountable for bias incidents; and

28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate calls upon its administration set a  
29 level of expectations for the behavior of individuals that choose to become members of the UW-  
30 Eau Claire campus community; and

31           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to preserve the safety of Students at UW-Eau  
32 Claire the Student Senate implores its administration to find a penalty following the investigation  
33 that accurately and proportionally reflects the infraction committed against the student-athlete

34 handbook and Blugold code of conduct; and understand that allowing the perpetrators back into  
35 student spaces will affect those who have been influenced by this incident; and

36 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon the passage of this resolution, President Johnson  
37 will transmit a copy to Dr James Schmidt, Chancellor; Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice  
38 Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dr Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity,  
39 Inclusion and Student Affairs; Dr Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Dr.  
40 John Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Teresa O'Halloran, Director,  
41 Affirmative Action; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Demetrius Smith, Program Director,  
42 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Dan Schumacher, Director of Athletics; Dang Yang, Director,  
43 Office of Multicultural Affairs; Christopher Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource  
44 Center; Kristen Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate;  
45 Kelly Holzer, Chair, Staff Council.

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