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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to preserve the safety of Students at UW-Eau Claire the Student Senate implores its administration to find a penalty following the investigation that accurately and proportionally reflects the infraction committed against the student-athlete
handbook and Blugold code of conduct; and understand that allowing the perpetrators back into
student spaces will affect those who have been influenced by this incident; and

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

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