UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF THE HIBBARD PENTHOUSE DESIGNATED AS
THE LATINX CULTURAL CENTER

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) "has made it a central priority
of the campus to increase recruitment and retention of students and faculty of color and from all other
marginalized groups" ¹; and

WHEREAS, one of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) goals at UW-Eau Claire is to "Develop
an infrastructure that facilitates community engagement and partnerships across the institution"²; and

WHEREAS, as of Fall 2018 UW-Eau Claire has 334 students enrolled that identify as Hispanic;
and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic identifying student population is the largest group of Students of Color
at UW-Eau Claire, with a 29.8 percentage of all Students of Color and 3.1 percentage of the total student
enrollment³; and

WHEREAS, the Latinx identifying student population is the only ethnic group housed under the
Office of Multicultural Affairs without a designated cultural center on campus; and

WHEREAS, the Latinx Cultural Center (LCC) will provide the Latinx student population a
designated physical space to come together and develop a deeper sense of community; and

WHEREAS, the LCC will also provide a resource space for other members of the campus
community such as the Latin American Studies Department, Spanish Department, as well as other
individuals and groups on campus looking to exchange interdisciplinary perspectives; and

WHEREAS, the LCC will provide the process to connect students on campus to the Latinx student
population at the University, as well as the Latinx population and community in Eau Claire; and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor's guidepost goals want to increase the percentage of Students of
Color enrolled from 11.1% to 20% within the next six years⁴; and

¹ "What is EDI about at UW-Eau Claire?" https://www.uwec.edu/diversity/diversity-vision-goals/
² "EDI goals" https://www.uwec.edu/diversity/diversity-vision-goals/
³ "UW-Eau Claire Factbook-All Student of Color Trend" https://www.uwec.edu/institutional-research/factbook-landing-page/factbook-enrollment/
⁴ "Guidepost Goals" https://www.uwec.edu/about/chancellors-office/
WHEREAS, other Institutions in the UW-System have adopted a Cultural Center for the Hispanic/Latinx community such as UW-Madison and UW-Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, visibility is a critical component of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; and

WHEREAS, Institutions of Higher Education have historically held a reputation of demonstrating exemplary behavior and serving as gatekeepers of progress; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the UW-Eau Claire Student Senate strongly supports the designation of the Hibbard Penthouse as the Latinx Cultural Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Senate supports intentional strides to cultivate a campus environment to recruit, retain, and maximize success for Latinx and other Students of Color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Senate will continue to advocate for representation of historically underrepresented identities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that UW-Eau Claire supports efforts to remove barriers for students, faculty, and staff with historically marginalized identities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Senate supports intentional strides to cultivate campus environments to maximize success for Latinx and other Students of Color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Student Senate supports the growth of resources and support for the continuously evolving demographics surrounding UW-Eau Claire; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Dr. Demetrius Smith, Program Director for EDI; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Albert Colom, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; John Haven III, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Miranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County; Michael Rindo, Assistant Chancellor, Facilities and University Relations; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Dr. Kelly Wonder, Director, Ronald E. McNair Program; Kelly Holzer, Chair, University Staff Council; Jodi Marie Thesing-Ritter, Executive Director of EDI; Diana Zarate, Latinx Student Services Coordinator; Dr. Manuel Fernandez, Latin American Studies Program Director; Dr. José Felipe Alvergue, Latin American Studies; Dr. Anne Cummings Hlas, Languages, Latin American Studies; Dr. Analisa DeGrave, Languages, Latin American Studies; Dr. Bibiana Fuentes, Languages, Latin American Studies; Dr. Paul J. Hoff, Languages, Latin American Studies; Meghan Licón, Languages, Latin American Studies; Karen O’Day, Latin American Studies; Jose Quintana, Outreach Coordinator, Admissions; Dr. Fabiola Varela, Languages; Sara Echarri Recarte, Languages; Dr. Bibiana Fuentes, Languages; Dr. Carter Smith, Languages; Dr. José Valero, Languages

SUBMITTED BY

Stephanie Hoeksema, Equity in Student Matters Director