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

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to promoting and supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts; and

WHEREAS, April has been designated as “Sexual Assault Awareness Month” (SAAM); and

WHEREAS, the history of this movement is rooted in the work and effort of Black Women and Women of Color starting around the Civil Rights Era, with figures like Rosa Parks; and

WHEREAS, these efforts have continued into such acts like opening the first “Rape Crisis Center” in 1971, and a march called “Take Back the Night” in 1978, both in San Francisco, California; and

WHEREAS, in 1994 legislation was brought forth to the United States Congress, which was voted in the same year as a federal law titled (Title IV, sec. 40001-40703 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, H.R. 3355) Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA); and

WHEREAS, The National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC) established the month of April in 2001 to continue these works; and

WHEREAS, NSVRC has been recognizing this month for 19 years with their goals to raise visibility about sexual assault and share how it can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, organizations and departments on campus such as UWEC It’s On Us, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, UWEC Student Advocates for Sexual Assault Survivors, and Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault (CASA) have been pushing these shared goals beyond the month of April; and

WHEREAS, these organizations hold programing about resources, education, consent, bystander prevention, rape culture and more; and

WHEREAS, to recognize this month and the continued actions our University has taken is to support victims/survivors of sexual assault and violence and prevent further incidents of these heinous acts; and

WHEREAS, also to recognize this month is to join a nation-wide effort to bring resources, support, and education for those affected by sexual assault and violence; and

WHEREAS, this is an issue that affects all gender identities, sexual orientations, and other identities, however, marginalized identities are the most disproportionately affected; and

WHEREAS, with “prevalence rates of rape for cis-gendered women being 6.8% Asian/Pacific Island, 11.9% Hispanic/Latina, 17.7% White, 18.8% Black, 24.4% Mixed Race, and 34.1% American Indian/Alaska Native”; and
WHEREAS, the prevalence rates of rape and sexual assault for “K-12 educational settings against trans people of color: 15% Black, 17% Asian/Pacific Islander, 18% Multiracial, 24% Native Americans”¹; and
WHEREAS, the rate an individual will experience sexual and domestic violence from a partner for women: “15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 24.8% White, 23.4% Hispanic/Latinx, 29.1% Black, 30.2% Mixed Race, 37.5% American Indian/Alaska Native”²; and
WHEREAS, and the rate an individual will experience sexual and domestic violence from a partner for men: 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 7.4% Hispanic/Latinx, 7.5% White, 9% Mixed Race, 12% Black, 12.4% American Indian/Alaska Native²; and
WHEREAS, from a survey “National Crime Victimization Survey” in 2014, determined of the 40,000 U.S. households surveyed 38% of respondents described incidents against men; and
WHEREAS, stigmas, which prevent reporting and appropriate action, are reported to have an effect on these statistics; and
WHEREAS, stigmas that have been implemented into our society such as “Hypersexualized depictions of women of color, particularly Black women, have functioned since the early 1400s and have manifested themselves through our political and cultural landscape for centuries”²; and
WHEREAS, through these stigmas of political and cultural oppression, certain identities do not report such as; “Similar to other communities of color such as Latinxs and American Indian women, African American women are less likely to seek out help from law officials and law enforcement.”²; and
WHEREAS, these stigmas disproportionately affect marginalized identities, such as individuals of color, LGBTQIA+ identifying, and those in lower socioeconomic standings; and
WHEREAS, sexual assault and violence is not an isolated incident in a person’s life, it has long-term mental health effects and directly contributes to the abuse to prison pipeline²; and
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Student Senate acknowledges the disproportionate experiences of sexual assault and violence and the long-lasting impact it has on the victims/survivors and the community overall; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate will continue to support and advocate for victims/survivors of sexual assault and violence; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support EDI initiatives on campus; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month and all events and activities held to highlight this month; 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 for Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Chris Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers, Evan Weiher, University Senate, Vicky Thomas, Director, Services for Students with Disabilities; Kim Wellnitz, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women; Rose-Marie Avin, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women; Blythe McConaughey, Sexual Assault Advocate, Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault
SUBMITTED BY:
Jackie Buttafuoco, Off-Campus Senator
Alyssa Monson- Off-Campus Student Senator