

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

**IN SUPPORT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

31           WHEREAS, with “prevalence rates of rape for cis-gendered women being 6.8% Asian/Pacific  
32 Island, 11.9% Hispanic/Latina, 17.7% White, 18.8% Black, 24.4% Mixed Race, and 34.1% American  
33 Indian/Alaska Native”; and

34

35 WHEREAS, the prevalence rates of rape and sexual assault for “K-12 educational settings against  
36 trans people of color: 15% Black, 17% Asian/Pacific Islander, 18% Multiracial, 24% Native Americans”<sup>1</sup>;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, the rate an individual will experience sexual and domestic violence from a partner for  
39 women: “15% Asian/Pacific Islander, 24.8% White, 23.4% Hispanic/Latinx, 29.1% Black, 30.2% Mixed  
40 Race, 37.5% American Indian/Alaska Native”<sup>1</sup>; and

41 WHEREAS, and the rate an individual will experience sexual and domestic violence from a  
42 partner for men: 3% Asian/Pacific Islander, 7.4% Hispanic/Latinx, 7.5% White, 9% Mixed Race, 12%  
43 Black, 12.4% American Indian/Alaska Native”<sup>1</sup>; and

44 WHEREAS, from a survey “National Crime Victimization Survey” in 2014, determined of the  
45 40,000 U.S. households surveyed 38% of respondents described incidents against men; and

46 WHEREAS, stigmas, which prevent reporting and appropriate action, are reported to have an  
47 effect on these statistics; and

48 WHEREAS, stigmas that have been implemented into our society such as “Hypersexualized  
49 depictions of women of color, particularly Black women, have functioned since the early 1400s and have  
50 manifested themselves through our political and cultural landscape for centuries”<sup>2</sup>; and

51 WHEREAS, through these stigmas of political and cultural oppression, certain identities do not  
52 report such as; “Similar to other communities of color such as Latinxs and American Indian women,  
53 African American women are less likely to seek out help from law officials and law enforcement.”<sup>2</sup>; and

54 WHEREAS, these stigmas disproportionately affect marginalized identities, such as individuals of  
55 color, LGBTQIA+ identifying, and those in lower socioeconomic standings; and

56 WHEREAS, sexual assault and violence is not an isolated incident in a person’s life, it has long-  
57 term mental health effects and directly contributes to the abuse to prison pipeline<sup>2</sup>; and

58 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, Student Senate acknowledges the disproportionate experiences of  
59 sexual assault and violence and the long-lasting impact it has on the victims/survivors and the  
60 community overall; and

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate will continue to support and advocate for  
62 victims/survivors of sexual assault and violence; and

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate will continue  
64 to support EDI initiatives on campus; and

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire Student Senate will continue  
66 to support Sexual Assault Awareness Month and all events and activities held to highlight this month;  
67 and

68 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a  
69 copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity,  
70 Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice  
71 Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Chris  
72 Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative  
73 Action; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers, Evan Weiher, University Senate, Vicky Thomas,  
74 Director, Services for Students with Disabilities; Kim Wellnitz, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of  
75 Women; Rose-Marie Avin, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women; Blythe McConaughy, Sexual  
76 Assault Advocate, Center for Awareness of Sexual Assault

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Jackie Buttafuoco, Off-Campus Senator  
Alyssa Monson- Off-Campus Student Senator