UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

1. WHEREAS, Student Senate is the official voice of the student body at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC); and
2. WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire is committed to promoting and supporting equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) efforts; and
3. WHEREAS, April 1st through April 30th is recognized as “National Autism Awareness Month” (NAAM); and
4. WHEREAS, every April 2nd is recognized and highlighted as “World Autism Awareness Day”; and
5. WHEREAS, “In 1970, the Autism Society launched an ongoing nationwide effort to promote autism awareness and assure that all affected by autism are able to achieve the highest quality of life possible”¹; and
6. WHEREAS, “In 1972, the Autism Society launched the first annual National Autistic Children’s week, which evolved into NAAM²; and
7. WHEREAS, the Autism Society is a grassroots organization that advocate through their efforts to spread awareness, promote acceptance, and ignite change, and
8. WHEREAS, their program this year for NAAM 2020 was “Celebrating Differences”, a campaign “designed to build a better awareness of the signs, symptoms, and realities of autism”¹; and
9. WHEREAS, through this campaign the Autism Society also hopes to “provide information and resources for communities to be more aware of autism, promote acceptance, and be more inclusive in everyday life”¹; and
10. WHEREAS, departments in our University provide resources and services for this population on our campus such as Student Services for Disability, Equity in Student Matters, Academic Skills Center, and Counseling Services; and
11. WHEREAS, with recent studies indicating there has been an increase of individuals born with autism in the United States with “1 in 125 children in 2010, to 1 in 59 children in 2020”¹; and
12. WHEREAS, individuals with autism are highly discriminated against them across all cultures and lived experiences; and
13. WHEREAS, HealthDay News reported: “British researchers found that 72 percent of the psychological distress reported in 111 adults with autism was linked to social stigma, including discrimination and rejection”; and

WHEREAS, discrimination such as social isolation, othering, and peer rejection has been clinically tested and has been determined to have major effects on individuals with autism to causing higher rates of mental health issues and higher rates of suicide²; and

WHEREAS, it is vital we support this identity on our campus and our communities; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, the University will continue to work towards providing resources and support to individuals living with autism; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Student Senate recognizes this month of April as well as National Autism Awareness Month; and

BE IT FURTHERED RESOLVED, Student Senate encourages the University to continue providing educational opportunities and information for the community; 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, Mirranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-ECBC;

SUBMITTED BY:

Jackie Buttafuoco, Off-Campus Senator