UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF UPHOLDING THE GOVERNING DOCUMENTS THROUGH THE CENSURE OF THE SITTING PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT SENATE 63rd SESSION

WHEREAS, Student Senate is the official voice of the student body at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UWEC); and
WHEREAS, the UWEC website states that Student Senate is to, “represent the student body of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire at the University;” and
WHEREAS, the actions of the Student Senate Executive Team reflect upon not only the Student Senate body, but the entirety of the student body of UWEC; and
WHEREAS, the bylaws state that the Student Senate’s mission is, “to represent the student body to the University and community and ensure readily available student resources, diverse and enriching student development opportunities and a positive and fulfilling student life experience;” and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article VI Section 1 states that the Student Body Constitution is the primary governing document of the UWEC Student Senate; and
WHEREAS, the Constitution Article III Section 2 Subsection D states, “The President shall be chief executive and legislative officer of student government and shall be responsible for proper execution of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Senate legislation;” and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article IV Section 1 Subsection A states that, “The judicial power shall be vested with the Student Senate;” and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article IV Section 1 Subsection B states, “The Student Senate has jurisdiction over any issues or disputes arising under this constitution;” and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article III Section 1 Subsection D states, “The general election shall be held annually in the second or third week of April;” and
WHEREAS, on April 13th, the President of the Student Senate 63rd Session stated that general elections will be taking place in the first two weeks of September of 2020; and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article III Section 1 Subsection D states, “The Executive Board shall establish, by the end of the fall semester, the specific date(s) for the general election;” and
WHEREAS, on April 13th, the President of the Student Senate 63rd Session stated that the decision to move elections was made in meetings between the President and Vice President of the Student Senate 63rd Session and the Chancellor of UWEC [see attachment A]; and
WHEREAS, the Student Body Constitution Article II Section H states, “The Senate may establish and enforce uniform standards of conduct for its members. The Senate may, in its bylaws, provide methods for removal of Senators and appointed officers;” and
WHEREAS, the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IV Subchapter 1 states, “A conflict of interest is defined as a situation in which a person is in a position to derive personal benefit from actions or decisions made in their official capacity;” and
WHEREAS, the inclusion of the Vice President of the Student Senate 63rd Session in discussions of the structure of elections goes against the regulations in the constitution and bylaws in relation to conflict of interest stated in the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IV Subchapter 1; and

WHEREAS, the announcement from the President of the Student Senate 63rd Session stating that the Vice President of the Student Senate 63rd Session will solely maintain their position after the session has ended also goes against the regulations in the construction and bylaws in regards to conflict of interest stated in the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IV Subchapter 1; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IX Subchapter 2 Part 1 states, “The Vice President shall receive an amount equal to 75% of the President’s stipend;” and

WHEREAS, the President of the Student Senate 63rd Sessions announcement that the Vice President will retain their position and continue to get paid would violate the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IX Subchapter 2 Part 1; and

WHEREAS, if the Vice-President if the Student Senate 63rd session were to maintain their position throughout the summer, a special allocation request would have to be made to the Finance Commission and approved by the Senate body; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter VI Subchapter 1 states, “A session of the Senate shall run annually from the start of the first executive board meeting after the Student Senate elections to the executive board meeting after the Student Senate elections the following school year;” and

WHEREAS, the President of the Student Senate 63rd Sessions announcement that all Director, Interns, and Senators must vacate their positions after the General Assembly meeting on April 27 would violate the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter VI Subchapter 1; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter XIV Subchapter 3 state, “The Joint Commission [between UWEC Student Senate and UWEC-BC Student Senate] is required to have one (1) mandatory meeting within the first two months of the semester”; and

WHEREAS, the respective Presidents of those governing bodies are responsible to chair the Joint Commission; and

WHEREAS, the President of the Student Senate 63rd Sessions failed to fulfill the responsibility of coordinating or otherwise facilitating a meeting between the respective governing bodies thereby breaking their duties as Student Body President and Co-Chair of the Joint Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IX, Subchapter 3 Part 7 states the roles and responsibilities of the Communication Director is to, “Promote awareness of and participation in Student Senate activities, monitoring student feedback and enhancing the many channels of communication;” and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of communication and confusion of members of the 63rd Session of Student Senator over the prolonged 2020 Spring break, the Communications Director of the Student Senate 63rd Session attempted to monitor student feedback relating to interest in the continuation of the session via a Facebook Poll; and

WHEREAS, in an email to the current Communications Director the President of the Student Senate 63rd Session stated, “While you are the Communications Director and certain communication
aspects are under your purview, decisions surrounding if, when, and how meetings take place is not” [see attachment B]; and

WHEREAS, in previously mentioned statements by the President of the Student Senate 63rd Sessions was a clear violation of the roles and responsibilities of the Communications Director outlined in the Student Senate Bylaws; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire recognizes that the COVID-19 global pandemic created extenuating circumstances for President Charlie Johnson to navigate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire does not condemn the decisions of the President and Vice President; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire condemns the unconstitutional practices of the President and Vice President;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the sitting chair 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; Kelly Holzer, Staff Council; Raymond Cross, President, UW-System; Miranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-Eau Clare Barron County; Tory Tiedeman, Former Non-Traditional Student Regent; Oliva Woodmansee, Traditional Student Regent; Jamie Siseman, RHA President.

SUBMITTED BY:

Joel Meier- Communications Director & On-Campus Student Senator
Lauren Becker- Student Office of Sustainability Director
Annika Angelo- On-Campus Student Senator