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, “AAPI Heritage commemoration was first proposed in 1977 to observe the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States (May 7, 1843), and the completion of the transcontinental railroad, constructed mainly by Chinese immigrant workers (May 10, 1869)”1; and
WHEREAS, “in 1978, President Carter made it an annual week-long event and President George H.W. Bush extended the proclamation to include the entire month of May.”1; and
WHEREAS, although recently we have honored these identities, there has been historically oppressive events, ideology, and overall treatment towards these identities in the United States; and
WHEREAS, such as Chinese Exclusion Act was an immigration law passed in 1882 that prevented Chinese laborers from immigrating to the United States. The Chinese Exclusion Act was the first immigration law that excluded an entire ethnic group; and
WHEREAS, “The "Chinese Must Go" movement was so strong that Chinese immigration to the United States declined from 39,500 in 1882 to only 10 in 1887.”, this trend would be reinforced for the following sixty years2; and
WHEREAS, by 1885, large numbers of Japanese laborers, with smaller numbers of Koreans and Indians, began arriving on the West Coast where they replaced the Chinese laborers in building railroads, farming, and fishing; and
WHEREAS, by 1907 anti-Japanese ideology, legislation and violence began to spread, which lead to the “Gentlemen’s Agreement”2 between the United States and Japan restricting immigration from Japan; and
WHEREAS, from 1904-1905, Koreans were displaced due to Japan imperialization of Korea, many migrated to the island of Hawaii and the West Coast of the U.S, where they faced discrimination and were a marginalized workforce; and
WHEREAS, following the Chinese Exclusion Act, South Asian Indian workers, primarily thousands of Sikh immigrants from the Punjabi Area, came to Canada to work primarily on the railroads. Later these workers migrated to the west coast of the U.S., anti-migrant ideology began with such movements like "Hindu invasion" by exclusionists and white labor. Along with the "tide of the Turbans" was outlawed in 1917 by Congress through their declaration that India was part of the Pacific-Barred Zone of excluded Asian countries2; and

2. https://asiasociety.org/education/asian-americans-then-and-now
WHEREAS, “by 1924, with the exception of Filipino "nationals," all Asian immigrants, including
Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and Indians were fully excluded by law, denied citizenship and
naturalization, and prevented from marrying Caucasians or owning land.”2; and
WHEREAS, “Filipinos were not legally excluded by the immigration laws because the Philippines
was already annexed by the United States as a result of the 1898 Spanish-American War, however
through the anti-Filipino violence and passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1935 which placed an
annual quota of fifty on Filipino migration—effectively excluding their entry as well.”2; and
WHEREAS, from 1882 to 1935, three waves of early Asian immigrants contributed their labor to
the building of this country but were eventually denied entry and not granted naturalization rights
until 1952; and
WHEREAS, even after these strides were made, tensions created from World War II caused for
the imprisonment and discrimination by Executive Order 9066 enacted by
President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and
WHEREAS this executive order issued from 1942 to 1945, was the discriminatory policy of the
U.S. government that would allow for people of Japanese descent to be interred in isolated camps; and
WHEREAS, roughly 80 years later, on February 13th, 2020, the State of California’s General
Assembly introduced HR-77 by Assembly Members Muratsuchi, Rendon, and Waldron; and
WHEREAS, HR-77 would acknowledge the discrimination and oppression experienced by those
wrongfully imprisoned by the U.S. Government and other pieces of legislation that allowed
for heinous treatment of Asian-Americans; and
WHEREAS, this is not the only late apology from the United States government to individuals of
Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, such as Hawaii and Guam; and
WHEREAS, in 1993 the United States Congress apologized informally to the people of Hawaii and
acknowledged the tyranny exhibited through the colonization of this island; and
WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, many Hmong individuals fought alongside U.S. forces, and
provided aid; and
WHEREAS, during the Reagan Administration there was a push for Hmong refugee programs to
help those that fought alongside us during these battles and the displacement of these people due to
communist regimes, with many resettling in California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; and
WHEREAS, currently under the Trump Administration, there is a threat of deportation of Non-
United States born Hmong individuals to be deported back to Thailand and other Southeast Pacific Asian
countries that these individuals could have been born in during their displacement in the refugee camp;
and
WHEREAS, these distinct individuals (Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Indians, and Filipinos) may be
coming from different countries and cultures, they all were vital pioneers of this country, each faced
similar conditions of exclusion and discrimination; and

2. https://asiasociety.org/education/asian-americans-then-and-now
statement-discrimination-and-coronavirus-epidemic
WHEREAS, the more marginalized of these identities such as Vietnam, Laos, Hmong People, Thailand, Nepal, Mongolia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and other smaller countries in Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, “due to these shared experiences and similar oppressive ideology, allowed for the beginning of a common, shared Asian experience in America”²; and

WHEREAS, to honor all of these cultures, ethnicities, nations, and people is to be recognizing a marginalized experience felt across all walks of life that originate from Asia and islands of the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs (OMA) were to hold events starting from April 29th till May 13th to honor these identities; and

WHEREAS, these events were not only going to highlight the achievements and contributions of these identities, but to discuss these identities with a more intersectional lens; and

WHEREAS, forums and discussions ranging from inter-cultural experiences, LGBTQIA+, and other lived experiences that brings a more complex approach when honoring these individuals; and

WHEREAS, due to circumstances these events were cancelled, however through the wake of a global pandemic anti-Asian rhetoric began to be heard; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, a group of five civil rights organizations issued the following statement and call to action about the coronavirus: “We are disappointed and disturbed by the discriminatory sentiment aimed at Asian Americans in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic in Asia”³; and

WHEREAS, due to these oppressive and xenophobic rhetoric towards individuals of Asian descent the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) fears increase of hate crimes and assaults to the Asian communities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the continuation of the mistreatment, discrimination, and overall xenophobia of individuals from Asia is one that will not go away if hateful rhetoric like this continues to be spread; and

WHEREAS, for the UWEC Student Senate to condemn these hateful actions and narratives towards these individuals would not only mean furthering our EDI initiatives, but standing with hundreds of students that have these identities; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate supports and celebrates AAPI Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Senate condemns xenophobic and hateful rhetoric of any manner that marginalizes individuals of any descent or background; 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

2. https://asiasociety.org/education/asian-americans-then-and-now
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