

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

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

1. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/foreign-born-hmong-united-states>

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

3. <https://www.advancingjustice-ajc.org/index.php/press-release/asian-americans-advancing-justice-statement-discrimination-and-coronavirus-epidemic>

33 WHEREAS, “by 1924, with the exception of Filipino "nationals," all Asian immigrants, including
34 Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, and Indians were fully excluded by law, denied citizenship and
35 naturalization, and prevented from marrying Caucasians or owning land.”²;and

36 WHEREAS, “Filipinos were not legally excluded by the immigration laws because the Philippines
37 was already annexed by the United States as a result of the 1898 Spanish-American War, however
38 through the anti-Filipino violence and passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1935 which placed an
39 annual quota of fifty on Filipino migration—effectively excluding their entry as well.”²; and

40 WHEREAS, from 1882 to 1935, three waves of early Asian immigrants contributed their labor to
41 the building of this country but were eventually denied entry and not granted naturalization rights
42 until 1952; and

43 WHEREAS, even after these strides were made, tensions created from World War II caused for
44 the imprisonment and discrimination by Executive Order 9066 enacted by
45 President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

46 WHEREAS this executive order issued from 1942 to 1945, was the discriminatory policy of the
47 U.S. government that would allow for people of Japanese descent to be interred in isolated camps; and

48 WHEREAS, roughly 80 years later, on February 13th, 2020, the State of California’s General
49 Assembly introduced HR-77 by Assembly Members Muratsuchi, Rendon, and Waldron; and

50 WHEREAS, HR-77 would acknowledge the discrimination and oppression experienced by those
51 wrongfully imprisoned by the U.S. Government and other pieces of legislation that allowed
52 for heinous treatment of Asian-Americans; and

53 WHEREAS, this is not the only late apology from the United State government to individuals of
54 Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands, such as Hawaii and Guam; and

55 WHEREAS, in 1993 the United States Congress apologized informally to the people of Hawaii and
56 acknowledged the tyranny exhibited through the colonization of this island; and

57 WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, many Hmong individuals fought alongside U.S. forces, and
58 provided aid; and

59 WHEREAS, during the Reagan Administration there was a push for Hmong refugee programs to
60 help those that fought alongside us during these battles and the displacement of these people due to
61 communist regimes, with many resettling in California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin; and

62 WHEREAS, currently under the Trump Administration, there is a threat of deportation of Non-
63 United States born Hmong individuals to be deported back to Thailand and other Southeast Pacific Asian
64 countries that these individuals could have been born in during their displacement in the refugee camp;
65 and

66 WHEREAS, these distinct individuals (Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Indians, and Filipinos) may be
67 coming from different countries and cultures, they all were vital pioneers of this country, each faced
68 similar conditions of exclusion and discrimination; and

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69 WHEREAS, the more marginalized of these identities such as Vietnam, Laos,
70 Hmong People, Thailand, Nepal, Mongolia, Cambodia, Indonesia, and other smaller countries in
71 Southeast Asia and islands in the Pacific Ocean; and

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

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

77 WHEREAS, the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs (OMA) were to hold events starting from April
78 29th till May 13th to honor these identities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

101 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Johnson will transmit a
102 copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity,
103 Inclusion and Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice
104 Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Chris
105 Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative

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106 Action; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers, Evan Weiher, University Senate, Vicky
107 Thomas, Director, Services for Students with Disabilities, Kim Wellnitz, Co-Chair, Commission on the
108 Status of Women, Rose-Marie Avin, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women; Kelly Holzer, Staff
109 Council; Raymond Cross, President, UW-System; Miranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-ECBC;
110 Charles Vu, Associate Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs;
111

SUBMITTED BY:
Jackie Buttafuoco- Off-Campus Student Senator

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