

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

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT
AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE 63rd SESSION**

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

35 WHEREAS, the inclusion of the Vice President of the Student Senate 63rd Session in discussions
36 of the structure of elections goes against the regulations in the constitution and bylaws in relation to
37 conflict of interest stated in the Student Senate Bylaws Chapter IV Subchapter 1; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76 WHEREAS, in previously mentioned statements by the President of the Student Senate
77 63rd Sessions was a clear violation of the roles and responsibilities of the Communications Director
78 outlined in the Student Senate Bylaws; and

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

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

84 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the sitting chair will transmit a copy
85 to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and
86 Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Klein, Provost and Vice Chancellor for
87 Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs; Chris Jorgenson, Director,
88 Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Teresa O'Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Kristin
89 Schumacher, Director, University Centers, Evan Weiher, University Senate; Vicky Thomas, Director,
90 Services for Students with Disabilities; Kelly Holzer, Staff Council; Raymond Cross, President, UW-
91 System; Miranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County; Tory Tiedeman, Former
92 Non-Traditional Student Regent; Oliva Woodmansee, Traditional Student Regent; Jamie Siseman, RHA
93 President.

SUBMITTED BY:

Joel Meier- Communications Director & On-Campus Student Senator
Jackie Buttafuoco- Off-Campus Student Senator
Bailey Carruthers – Off-Campus Student Senator