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, in 2015 the University’s Foundation Association and members of the Chancellor’s Executive Team erected a replacement plaque for the removed 1970 “Kent State Memorial”, that was previously located where the new Davies building sits; and

WHEREAS, during the production of this landmark/memorial, University Archivist Greg Kocken, University Historians Jim Oberly and Bob Gough were not involved in most of the research of the historical text that would be displayed on the now erected plaque; and

WHEREAS, between Kocken, Oberly, and Gough they were given approximately four days to edit the text (See attachment A/B); and

WHEREAS, through nine months of research and production of an established group tasked in the creation of the memorial and the text placed on it; this group consist of Archivist Greg Kocken, Professor Cheryl Jimenez-Frei, and Off-Campus Student Senator Jackie Buttafuoco; and

WHEREAS, this group held student forums, meetings with key stake holders, and consulting the University’s Archives and Digital Collections department in the McIntyre Library; and

WHEREAS, through the work produced by this group; has shown there is a need for a proper protocol when it comes to the production and erections of landmarks/memorials; and

WHEREAS, the University Archivist and the History Department Chair, and the entirety of the History Department have agreed to participate in the consultation and resource aspect of this protocol; and

WHEREAS, in the drafting of these protocols, a time minimum should be implemented to prevent false and misrepresented information to be displayed on our campus; and

WHEREAS, the vitalness to maintain the integrity and credibility of these markers and memorials promotes and helps execute the University’s EDI initiatives; and

WHEREAS, lack of filtering of historical text, may it be from a simple land marker to a large textbook, may allow for historically oppressive ideology to be promoted through certain rhetoric that are attached to historically oppressive narratives; and

WHEREAS, producing a protocol with key members, allows for more perspectives, information, and voices to be heard when creating markers/memorials that reflect the campus’s climate and values; and
BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, the UWEC Chancellor and Chancellor’s Executive Team consult the University Archivist and the History Department when creating a new historical landmark/memorial; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the creation of the more equitable “Augusta, Jackson and Kent State Memorial”, to be reinstated, and resume the production of the memorial by the original group and additional key members; 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, Kim Wellnitz, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women, Rose-Marie Avin, Co-Chair, Commission on the Status of Women; Kelly Holzer, Staff Council; Raymond Cross, President, UW-System; Mirranda Ricci, Student Body President, UW-ECBC, Greg Kocken, University Archivist, University Archives and Digital Collections; Dr. Louisa Rice, Department Chair, UWEC History Department, Dr. Demetrius Smith, Program Director of EDI, UWEC;

SUBMITTED BY:
Jackie Buttafuoco, Off-Campus Student Senator