

**University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**  
**University Senate Resolution**  
**on the November 3, 2020 Election and Its Aftermath**

WHEREAS, the integrity of the November 3, 2020 election is already being undermined by unsubstantiated allegations that mail-in voting will be fraudulent<sup>1</sup>;

WHEREAS, one of the two major candidates for President has, on multiple occasions, refused to commit to accepting the validity of the election results or to a peaceful transfer of power<sup>2</sup>;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the proportion of Americans voting by mail and may affect voting behavior on Election Day<sup>3</sup>;

WHEREAS, a thorough, accurate vote count is likely to be delayed for days or weeks in some states because of laws that prohibit counting absentee ballots prior to Election Day<sup>4</sup>;

WHEREAS, U.S. intelligence agencies have repeatedly warned of systematic efforts at election interference from foreign actors<sup>5</sup>;

WHEREAS, social media platforms constitute a communication ecosystem that is unprecedented in its openness to communication from both domestic and foreign actors, and in which false information spreads farther and faster than truth<sup>6</sup>;

WHEREAS, the experience of the 2016 Presidential campaign and election by students, staff, and faculty at UW-Eau Claire was disruptive of campus activities and mentally and emotionally draining for many members of the campus community, especially those with marginalized identities<sup>7</sup>;

WHEREAS, the above evidence suggests that both November 3, 2020 and the days and weeks following the election may be uniquely stressful and difficult, both for members of the campus community and for the United States as a nation;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.factcheck.org/2020/09/trumps-repeated-false-attacks-on-mail-in-ballots/>

<sup>2</sup> September 23 and 29, 2020

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/elections/absentee-ballot-early-voting.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/vopp-table-16-when-absentee-mail-ballot-processing-and-counting-can-begin.aspx>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.scribd.com/document/474711820/DHS-Russia-Intel-Sept-3-2020-Voting-w-Redactions#from\\_embed](https://www.scribd.com/document/474711820/DHS-Russia-Intel-Sept-3-2020-Voting-w-Redactions#from_embed) ; <https://www.dni.gov/index.php/newsroom/press-releases/item/2139-statement-by-ncsc-director-william-evanina-election-threat-update-for-the-american-public>

<sup>6</sup> Vosoughi, Soroush, Deb Roy, and Sinan Aral. 2018. "The Spread of True and False News Online." *Science*, 359, pp. 1146-1151. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6380/1146>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.spectatornews.com/campus-news/2016/11/students-verbally-assaulted-while-trump-rally-was-on-campus/>

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to be as accommodating as is possible and reasonable to the mental and emotional health needs of students, colleagues, and employees under their supervision during and after the 2020 election;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to uphold the highest standards of professionalism while also supporting the mental and emotional health needs of members of the Blugold community, including campus community members of color who face heightened risk and stress due to social unrest and the pandemic;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages all staff and faculty to strive to create a supportive and safe community that preserves the University Mission and allows all students, staff, and faculty to learn, work, and thrive in peace;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University Senate encourages the UWEC Administration to take steps to safeguard the safety and health of all students and employees during this divisive time.