

CONTENT WARNING

**This piece of legislation discusses suicide and
mental health statistics**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE - STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

1 WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (UW-Eau Claire) Student Senate is the official
2 voice of the student body; and

3 WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day is an annual LGBTQIA+ awareness day that offers support
4 to the queer community and queer individuals in the process of “coming out”; and

5 WHEREAS, the term “coming out” refers to the process that people in the queer community go
6 through as they work to accept their sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as the process of
7 sharing that identity openly with others¹; and

8 WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day was founded in 1988 by Richard Eichberg to raise
9 awareness of the on-going civil rights movement that was happening at the time²; and

10 WHEREAS, the date October 11th was chosen because it marked the one year anniversary of the
11 second major National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights²; and

12 WHEREAS, National Coming Out Day is observed in the United States as well as many other
13 countries around the world; and

14 WHEREAS, while coming out can be very beneficial for many, it can also endanger an individual
15 in very severe ways; and

16 WHEREAS, even though coming out is very different for everyone, it is still a very brave and
17 personal experience nonetheless; and

18 WHEREAS, the average age of questioning this new development of identity is 12 years old³; and

19 WHEREAS, the average age of personal acknowledgement of this identity is 17 years old³; and

20 WHEREAS, the average age of first sharing this identity is 20 years old³; and

21 WHEREAS, suicide attempt rates are highest with queer youth of color, specifically Native/
22 Indigenous youth, then queer white youth⁴; and

23 WHEREAS, 70% of queer youth reported poor mental health most of the time or always during
24 the COVID-19 pandemic⁴; and

25 WHEREAS, transgender and non-binary youth suicide attempt rates decreased by half when
26 their pronouns were respected by those around them⁴; and

27 WHEREAS, queer youth who had access to safe spaces that affirmed their sexual orientation and
28 gender identity reported lower suicide attempt rates⁴; and

¹ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/sexual-orientation/sexual-orientation/whats-coming-out>

² <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/coming-out-day>

³ <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2013/06/13/a-survey-of-lgbt-americans/>

⁴ <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021/>

29 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support and
30 advocate for safe spaces on campus for those that need it; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to support student
32 organizations that seek to represent and advocate for queer individuals; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Student Senate will validate, respect, and support those who need
34 it on National Coming Out Day; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate calls on all faculty, staff and students
36 at large to support in every aforementioned way to the best of their abilities; and

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate intends to meet with Provost Kleine to
38 discuss adding this celebratory day, as well as many others, to the Detailed Academic Calendar for the
39 coming years; and

40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Mikoulskii will transmit
41 a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Olga Diaz, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion &
42 Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic
43 Affairs; Teresa O'Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and
44 Administration; William Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Jake Wrasse M.A.,
45 Legislative and Community Relations Liaison; Kristin Schumacher M. A., Director, University
46 Centers; Grace Arrigoni, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County; Dr. Chris Jorgenson,
47 Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Kallie Friede, Associate Student Services Coordinator,
48 Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Emily Luebke, President, UWEC Pride;

SUBMITTED BY:

**Meej Tshaj Muas, Equity In Student Matters Senate Director &
Off Campus Senator**