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

WHEREAS, In the United States, fifteen states, including Texas, Mississippi, and Minnesota, proclaimed October as Hindu Heritage Month¹; and

WHEREAS, October holds a special significance as it is the birth month of Mahatma Gandhi and is often when Diwali, the festival that is celebrated in the victory of good over evil, is held; and

WHEREAS, Hinduism is the third largest religion in the world with over one billion devotees worldwide and approximately three million in the United States¹; and

WHEREAS, Hindus represent one of the newest and fastest-growing immigrant communities who started immigrating to the United States in the 1900s and came in increasing numbers after lifting the Asian Exclusion Act of 1924²; and

WHEREAS, Hindu heritage, culture, and values have greatly benefited our nation especially through the Vedanta philosophy, Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation, yoga, literature, and community service; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched the higher education university systems by teaching numerous students in a large variety of fields; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin is home to around thirty-thousand Hindu Americans who represent diverse ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese, Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, European descent, and more³; and

WHEREAS, Hindu Heritage Month provides the opportunity to focus on the Hindu culture and its diverse spiritual traditions rooted in India; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate encourages the student community to conduct research and educate oneself to better understand the Hindu culture and community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate recognizes October as the Hindu Heritage Month; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW- Eau Claire Student Senate will seek to increase awareness and appreciation of the Hindu community as well as acknowledge the significant contributions made by them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW – Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to look for more ways to support and engage Hindu students on campus and their communities; and

¹ https://hindumonth.org/proclamations/
² hinduamerican.org/hindu-heritage-month
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Mikoulinskii will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Olga Diaz, Vice Chancellor for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Student Affairs; LaRue Pierce, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Jake Wrasse, Legislative and Community Relations Liaison; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Grace Arrigoni, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire Barron County; Jay Dosmanbetov, President, International Student Association

SUBMITTED BY:
Manushri Ivaturi, Equity in Student Matters Commission Member,
On-Campus Senator