

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY AND INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

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

3 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate 63rd Session passed a resolution
4 (63-R-9) which states the Senate is responsible for supporting and creating a climate on
5 campus which welcomes and supports Indigenous Students; and

6 WHEREAS, the city council of Eau Claire declared that the second Monday of
7 October is to be officially recognized as Indigenous People's Day via a resolution in
8 2017; and

9 WHEREAS, Indigenous People's Day has been acknowledged and honored by
10 UW-Eau Claire Student Senate in past years; and

11 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire has previously acknowledged and supported
12 Indigenous People's Day; and

13 WHEREAS, the celebration and acknowledgment of this day allows for
14 Indigenous persons to rewrite racist narratives and to celebrate their culture and identity;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Indigenous People's Day is an opportunity to mourn, grow, and
17 learn about history; and

18 WHEREAS, the second Monday of October was previously recognized as
19 Christopher Columbus Day in Eau Claire and is still considered a federal holiday; and

20 WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus and other colonizers were responsible for the mass
genocide, blatant racism, and overall dehumanization of Indigenous people; and

21 WHEREAS, colonization is the act of the action or process of appropriating control over the
indigenous people of an area.

22 WHEREAS, the arrival of Christopher Columbus and the colonization that followed has led to
the
23 deaths of an estimated 55 million Indigenous people in the Americas due to disease.

24 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate does not support Christopher
25 Columbus Day or the racist ideas that go along with it; and

26 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire Office of Multicultural Affairs held an event and publicly

27 acknowledged Indigenous People’s Day; and

28 WHEREAS, the acknowledgement of America’s racist history is essential in
29 order for UW-Eau Claire to thrive in EDI development; and

30 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire was built and founded on lands that once belonged
31 to Indigenous communities; and

32 WHEREAS, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate recognizes that this resolution should have been
33 passed sooner and apologizes for the delay, as this day has now passed.

34 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate officially
35 recognizes the second Monday of October as Indigenous People’s Day; and

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate calls upon
37 administration to acknowledge the importance of this day; and

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, UW-Eau Claire Student Senate will continue to
39 support and recognize the second Monday of October as Indigenous People’s Day; and

40 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon the passage of this resolution, President
41 Ziebell will transmit a copy to Dr James Schmidt, Chancellor; Patricia Kleine, Provost
42 and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Dr Warren Anderson, Vice Chancellor, Equity,
43 Diversity, Inclusion and Student Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and
44 Administration; Teresa O’Halloran, Director, Affirmative Action; LaRue Pierce, Dean of
45 Students; Dr. Demitrius Smith, Program Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Dan
46 Schumacher, Director of Athletics; Dang Yang, Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs;
47 Christopher Jorgenson, Director, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center; Kristen
48 Schumacher, Director, University Centers; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Kelly
49 Holzer, Chair, Staff Council; Youssra Bentaalla, Student Co- Chair, EDI RATF; Jan
50 Larson, Faculty Co-Chair, EDI RATF; Kim Wudi, Staff Co-Chair, EDI RATF; Debra
51 Barker, Director, American Indian Studies; Heather Moody, Faculty Advisor, American
52 Indian Studies; Gary Wheeler, Student Government Association Adviser UW-EC—BC;
53 Justice Wesson, Student Body President, UWEC-BC.

Submitted By:

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