

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

CALL FOR AN ACADEMIC EDI CERTIFICATE

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

3 WHEREAS, according to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire EDI Strategic Plan for 2025, “It is
4 imperative to implement curricular revisions to better address issues of race, ethnicity, language/dialect,
5 etc. within academic disciplines including EDI-related themes and/or topics (e.g. colonialism, LGBTQ+,
6 related issues, etc.) in content”¹; and

7 WHEREAS, the current university offering for an EDI certificate is “co-curricular,” meaning that
8 one must volunteer outside of their academic degree planning to participate in workshops and
9 conferences; and

10 WHEREAS, the co-curricular EDI certificate is entirely dependent on student employees not
11 adequately trained nor have a deep understanding of the topics to provide in-depth critical analysis and
12 dialogue on content surrounding EDI education housed in a department that is unable to fulfill the needs
13 of the current co-curricular EDI certificate; and

14 WHEREAS, the co-curricular EDI certificate does not have the capacity to support the demand for
15 it due to a lack of funding and staffing within the Center for EDI Training, Development, and Education;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, students have expressed concern over the participation and completion of the co-
18 curricular EDI Certificate, citing they have not been able to see their workshops completed, what to do for
19 Tier 3, inconsistent project proposals for Tier 3 being denied and similar ones being accepted, and a lack
20 of communication within the Center for EDI Training, Development, and Education; and

21 WHEREAS, in conversation with directors and deans, solutions such as creating curricula that
22 incorporate EDI has been a proposed solution but does not adequately assess the needs for content to
23 address issues of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, dis/ability, etc.; and

24 WHEREAS, the co-curricular EDI certificate has been cited to have been developed for students
25 who were not able to incorporate EDI education into their degree plans, however, this conflicts with

¹ <https://publicwebuploads.uwec.edu/documents/EDI-Strategic-Plan-Preliminary-Report-of-Trends-Findings-September-2020.pdf>

26 sentiments and backing that support the development of an academic EDI certificate would allow students
27 to better manage their time; and

28 WHEREAS, The development of an academic EDI certificate, meaning a certificate with course
29 requirement, pre-requisites, evidence-based, and evidence-informed content, would excel University of
30 Wisconsin-Eau Claire towards the goals for the EDI Strategic Plan for 2025; and

31 WHEREAS, In conversation with EDI executive staff members, the development of an academic
32 EDI certificate is possible and achievable with the current course offerings for the University of
33 Wisconsin-Eau Claire’s R1 credit requirement; and

34 WHEREAS, The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and its colleges have the capability to provide
35 support and sponsorship for a general EDI certificate within the College of Arts and Sciences, an EDI
36 certificate centered for the College of Business, an EDI certificate centered for the College of Education
37 and Human Sciences, and an EDI certificate centered for the College of Nursing; and

38 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, to achieve the goals of the EDI Strategic Plan for 2025, the University
39 of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Academic Affairs shall take steps to develop academic requirements for EDI
40 education by moving away from dependence of a “co-curricular” certificate and developing/expanding
41 academic offerings for EDI; and

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Academic Affairs must
43 commit to an academic EDI certificate focused on social issues and social solutions; and

44 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Academic Affairs must
45 aim to create a “generalized” EDI certificate that provides pursuant students with curricula that challenges
46 beliefs and analysis based on race, gender identity, sexual orientation, dis/ability, etc. housed within the
47 College of Arts and Sciences; and

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, After the creation and success of “generalized” EDI Certificate, The
49 University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and Academic Affairs must pursue EDI certificates specialized within
50 the remaining three colleges of Nursing and Health Sciences; Education and Human Sciences; and
51 Business; and

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Academic Affairs, and the
53 College of Arts and Sciences must create a steering committee for the development of an EDI Certificate
54 made up of faculty, staff, and at least three students (one director from the Equity in Student Matters
55 Commission, the director of the Academic Affairs Commission, and an at-large student) to convene once
56 a month until the development of the certificate and four times the year of its acquisition into university
57 academic offerings; and

58 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, President Gaitán will transmit a
59 copy of this bill to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Gregory Heinselman, Dean of Students; Dr. Patricia
60 Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and
61 Administration; Billy Felz, Interim Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Management; Teresa O’Halloran, Interim
62 Assistant Chancellor of EDI; Selika Ducksworth, Interim Executive Director for EDI Engagement; Evan
63 Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body President, UW Eau Claire-Barron County;
64 Gary Wheeler, Interim Campus Director, UW Eau Claire-Barron County; Dr. Aleks Sternfeld-Dun, Dean,
65 College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Margaret Cassidy, Associate Dean Academic Affairs & Curriculum; Brewer
66 Doran, Ph.D., Dean, College of Business; Jean Adelle Pratt, Ph.D. Associate Dean, College of Business;
67 Carmen Manning, Ph.D., Dean, College of Education and Human Sciences; Jill Prushiek, Associate Dean,
68 College of Education and Human Sciences; Kristen Abbot-Anderson, Ph.D., RN, CNE, Dean, College of
69 Nursing and Health Sciences; Debra Jansen, Ph.D., RN, Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health
70 Sciences; Heather Ann Moody, Ed.D., Director, American Indian Studies; Paul Kaldjian, Interim
71 Department Chair, Art & Design; Winnifred Bryant, Ph.D., Department Chair, Biology; Kent Syverson,
72 Department Officer, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Kristine Knutson, Ph.D., Department Chair,
73 Communication and Journalism; Alex Smith, Interim Department Chairs, Computer Science, Department
74 Chair, Economics; Dr. Jason Spraitz, Program Coordinator, Criminal Justice; Jan Stirm, Ph.D., Department
75 Chair, English; Ezra Zeitler, Department Chair, Geography & Anthropology; Scott Clark, Department Chair,
76 Geology; David Jones, Ph.D., Interim Department Chair, History; Carter Smith, Ph.D., Department Chair,
77 Languages; Manuel Fernandez, Ph.D., Program Director, Latin American and Latinx Studies; David Tschida,
78 Ph.D., Liberal Studies; Dr. Doug Dunham, Chair, Materials Science and Biomedical Engineering; Abra
79 Brisbin, Ph.D., Department Chair, Mathematics; Gretchen Peters, Ph.D., Department Chair, Music and
80 Theatre Arts; Sean McAleer, Ph.D., Department Chair, Philosophy and Religious Studies; Erik Hendrickson,
81 Ph.D., Department Chair, Physics and Astronomy; Dr. Rodd Freitag, Interim Department Chair, Political
82 Science; Jeff Goodman, Department Chair, Psychology; Karen Mumford, Ph.D., Program Director, Public
83 Health and Environmental Studies; Dr. Rose-Marie Avin, Director, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, & Sexuality
84 Studies; Dr. Pamela J. Forman, Department Chair, Sociology; Ling Liu, Ph.D., Department Chair, Accounting
85 and Finance; Paula Lentz, Ph.D., Program Director, Business Communication; Anthony Keys, Ph.D.,
86 Department Chair, Information Systems; Kristy Lauver, Ph.D., Department Chair, Management and
87 Marketing; Charlotte Sortedahl, DNP, MPH, M.S., RN, Department Chair, Nursing; Abby Hemmerich,
88 Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Department Chair, Communication Sciences and Disorders; Jeffrey Janot, Ph.D.,
89 Department Chair, Kinesiology; Leah Olson-McBridge, Ph.D., MSW, Chairperson, Social Work; Sue
90 Fondrie, Ph.D., Department Chair, Education of Equity and Justice; Barb Meier, Ph.D., Department Chair,
91 Special Education and Inclusive Practices; Libby Welch, Department Assistant, Teacher Education Program

AUTHORED BY:

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