Inclusivity Omnibus

WHEREAS, that Article IV (Section 4.01) of the Constitution of the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee currently reads “Students with Disabilities Advocate”.

WHEREAS, that Article IV (Section 11.01) Paragraph a of the Constitution of the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee currently reads “Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by at least a 2/3 majority vote of the Senate, or by a petition signed by 5% of the members of SA.”

WHEREAS, there are identities that face discrimination and oppression that have no legal protection on the basis of said identity.

WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County (formerly University of Wisconsin-Rock County), and the University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives have all adopted a nondiscrimination policy more expansive than what is required by state law.

WHEREAS, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee prides itself on being the most diverse campus in the state.

WHEREAS, Having a GPA requirement of all SA officials is inherently discriminatory.

WHEREAS, Several student shared governance groups in the UW System (Including but not limited to University of Wisconsin-Steven’s Point at Wausau, University of Wisconsin-Stout, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater at Rock County, and the UW-System Student Representatives) do not have a GPA requirement.

WHEREAS, The current Student Association Official GPA requirement of 2.5 is an arbitrary cut-off.

WHEREAS, the word disability carries a negative connotation.

WHEREAS, the word disability is outdated.

WHEREAS, the word disability is offensive.

WHEREAS, the word disability ignores different individual’s experiences.

WHEREAS, the word disability implies brokenness.
WHEREAS, the word disability is derogatory.

WHEREAS, the word disability spreads hurt.

WHEREAS, the phrase students with disabilities is used to marginalize said group.

WHEREAS, the phrase students with disabilities excludes said group from populations.

WHEREAS, the phrase students with disabilities does not match the resource center that its associated with (the Accessibility Resource Center), which can prevent people from finding resources.

WHEREAS, the phrase students with disabilities fosters isolation of that group.

WHEREAS, disabled is an identity that should not be forced on people.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; pursuant to Article XI (Section 11.01) of the Constitution of the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Student Association of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee puts forth the following amendments to its constitution to a student-wide referendum.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Article IV (Section 4.01) of the Constitution of the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee be amended to read “Accessibility Advocacy”.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that “, and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5” be stricken from Article II (Section 2.02(a)(i)).

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that “, and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0” be stricken from Article II (Section 2.02(d)(i))

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that Article III, Section 3.01(a) be amended to read “All members of the SA shall be afforded the protections from discrimination as outlined in University of Wisconsin System policies and procedures, as well as state and federal law; to include protections from discrimination on the basis or intersections of race, color, creed, religion or lack thereof, religious affiliation or place of worship, spiritual beliefs, tribal identity or affiliation, cultural beliefs or practices, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, disability or diverse ability and accommodations, marital status, pregnancy, parental or guardian status, country or nation of origin, nationality or allegiance to nations, citizenship status, immigration status, political ideology, military service, medical history, genetic history, ancestry, age, height, weight, size or shape, presentation or appearance, primary or first language, proficiency of language, vocal or non-vocal expression, arrest or conviction record, academic history, academic concentration, Wisconsin residency status, housing status or arrangement, occupation, class, amount or source of income, financial dependency, government dependency, transfer status, continuing studies status, returning status, first-generation status, nontraditional status, part-time status, or known relationship to anyone in any of these protected classes or intersections thereof, unless pursuant to an exception recognized by state or federal law.”

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; The Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee calls on all policy makers in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to take similar inclusivity and nondiscrimination action and policy changes.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; The Student Association at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee formally acknowledges the contributions of Brooke Evans (an alum and former student
representative of UW-Madison), and thanks her for her authorship of the nondiscrimination policy language in lines 44-58 of this legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that this legislation be communicated to related student organizations such as NAMI, DREAM, and Student Signing Association, as well as the Chair of the Oversight and Appeals Commission, Student Association Professional Staff, the Independent Elections Commission, the Inclusive Excellence Center, Senior Student Affairs Officer Kelly Haag and Chancellor Mark Mone.

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Alyssa Molinski                                      Date       AYE    NAY
Student Association President

Legislative History