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

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

WHEREAS, the 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 or federal law.

WHEREAS, that Article IV (Section 11.0I) 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, the word disability has been historically weaponized, stigmatized, and othered in personal, professional, and political environments.

WHEREAS, the word disability belongs to the impacted community and ought be acknowledged alongside a common alternative identifier to respect the individual autonomy to self-identify for all students in a manner that supports the Accessibility Resource Center and necessary student accommodations as well as allots for continuity with respect to historical state and federal identifications.

WHEREAS, a goal of this body in perpetuity must be to achieve full accessibility and this goal shall be reflected in our positions whereby the “Students with Disabilities Advocate” be changed to “Accessibility Advocate”.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; pursuant to Article XI (Section 11.0I) 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 4.0I)(b)(iii)(i) of the Constitution of the Student Association at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee be amended to read “Accessibility Advocate”.
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, variable presence of religion, 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, refugee status, immigration status, political ideology, military service, medical history, genetic information, 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 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 student government bodies in the state of Wisconsin to adopt this nondiscrimination policy.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; The Student Association at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee formally acknowledges the contributions of Brooke Evans, an alumna of and former representative for the Associated Students of Madison at UW—Madison, and thanks her for her authorship of the nondiscrimination policy language in lines 30-44 of this legislation which passed by referendum and now serves as the nondiscrimination policy for the Associated Students of Madison at UW—Madison, and has subsequently been incorporated into the nondiscrimination policies of the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater at Rock County and the University of Wisconsin System Student Representatives.

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, the UW System Student Representatives, Student Association Professional Staff, the Independent Elections Commission, the Inclusive Excellence Center, Senior Student Affairs Officer Kelly Haag and Chancellor Mark Mone.

Legislative History
3/10/19 - Passed by the Student Association Senate.