



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – LA CROSSE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

235 CARTWRIGHT CENTER 1725 STATE STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8717

Student Senate Agenda

Date: December 12th, 2007

Time and Location: 6pm in Cartwright 339

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 5:59 pm

II. Role Call

Name	Role Call	Quorum 1
Allen, Jeffery	x	x
Armstrong, Vanessa	x	x
Baalbaki, Ibrahim		
Bayer, Allison		x
Cerwin, Nicholas	x	x
Cooper, Mitchell		x
Csargo, Nicholas	x	x
DeShong, Robert	x	x
Frenner, Rachel	x	x
Fuhrmann, Eric	x	x
Groshek, Matthew	x	x
Hammen, Derek	x	x
Holzem, Natalie	x	x
Kahl, Erik	x	x
Klein, Ryan		x
Klotz, Melissa	x	x
Kohl-Riggs, Arthur		
Langhoff, Andrea	x	x
Liebzeit, Konrad	x	x
Lynch, Kathleen	x	x
McCaigne, Kelsey	x	x
McManus, Aron		
Moua, Keng		x
Navarre, Stephanie	x	x
Nell, Ryan		
Putnam, Sarah	x	x
Rome, Jacob	x	x
Ruplinger, Melissa	x	x

Sackmann, Valentine	x	x
Savaglio, Britta	x	x
Schooley, Jillian	x	x
Syafitri, Sonia	x	x
Trimborn, Steven	x	x
Vang, Alexandra		x
Van Winkle, Joshua	x	
Wallace, Karly	x	x

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Hammen/VanWinkle
- b. Approved

IV. Approval of Agenda

- a. Sackmann/VanWinkle
- b. Approved

V. Guest Speakers

- a. Joe Gow, UW-L Chancellor
 - i. Thank you all so much for the work behind GQA. It wouldn't have happened without student leadership involvement. They were blown away with the survey. Larry was very helpful, Eric did a wonderful survey. The referendum was very solid.
 - ii. The speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly was impressed with referendum and supported it. President was very impressed. It was approved on Thursday unanimously. On Friday it was approved unanimously again without even speaking on it. People said the showing that we had of LaCrosse was the most they'd seen in a long time. The student piece was at the center of it. I hope we keep building on this.
 - iii. Now we move into the next phase which is, how are we going to spend this money? Student input is critical. Today met with Joint Planning and Budget Committee. They want reporting in five years, I think we should do an annual report and post it on the web. The composition of the committee only has 2 students, passed a motion saying they would put 2 more students and 2 more staff on. I'd be eager to hear about your impressions
 1. We are concerned about student voice on committee, but felt it was more like a community and it wasn't us against them. We are very comfortable with that. We are going to have a better education for students on the committee about budget issues so they won't feel so intimidated.
 2. When faculty started talking about how we are all working together it made us feel better about it.
 - iv. I thought you did an excellent job on saying that we need a stronger student voice. That committee makes recommendations to administration.

1. So what is the committee in charge of?
 - a. Analyzing how to use our new resources. Aiding existing programs and developing new things. I think we could hire someone to advise students on how to apply for the more prestigious scholarships. You have to get people when they are freshman and working with them. You wouldn't get that by just looking at the numbers, so I think the students have to have a strong voice in this process and look at new things as well.
 - v. Please come to the Chancellors Open House in Cleary tomorrow at 5pm.

VI. Officer Reports

- a. Fred
 - i. Have a good break and good luck with finals.
- b. Bjorn
 - i. Thanks for a really good semester; we got a lot of work done.
 - ii. Please fill out sheet with your phone number.
 - iii. Office hour logs due.
 - iv. Chartwells decided to phase out the use of plastic and paper bags, now have a canvas bag for all students starting next semester. You can pick them at Whitney station when you come in for your bagged lunch.
- c. Others
 - i. Chief of Staff
 1. Have a good break.
 - ii. CFO
 1. Fund request form. If you need to request money for traveling or anything like that you need to fill out this form. After filling it out Fred and I will sign and date it if approved. They are located under my mailbox. Have to be done prior to the date of the expenditure.
 - iii. Kyle
 1. Thanks for the call in day thing. It passed through the board of regents.
 2. Thank you to everyone who came to the Board of regents meeting.
 - iv. Social Justice
 1. Campaign on diversity on campus. If you have any ideas as to who should be included in process please let me know. Main quote right now is "inclusion matters".
 - v. Tom
 1. Thanks for helping with the Higher Education Act. It passed
 2. I will be Leg Con info out tomorrow.
 3. I am resigning from my position because of personal matters; if you have any questions ask me after meeting. If you need any help with anything please let me know.
 - vi. Natalie

- 1. Have a good break.
 - vii. Jill
 - 1. Happy Holidays.
- VII. RHAC Report
 - a. Elected a new coordinator
 - i. Jesse Sorenston.
- VIII. Advisor Reports
 - a. Larry
 - i. Thank you for the wonderful semester that I missed most of. I think this is one of the most productive fall semesters. Have a really good break, get through finals and study hard. Great job this semester and looking forward to next semester.
 - b. Lauren
 - i. Working on date and time of team building for spring semester. Those of you who planned to be on committee please stay after meeting.
- IX. Committee Reports
 - a. New Academic Building Classroom Technology Committee- classroom layout feedback.
 - i. How classrooms are arranged, can be very complicated. Best part about all these layouts are they are becoming much more accessible. That's one of the most important developments. Another thing is desktop tables so students can bring laptops or have more than one piece of paper in front of you. Square foot per student will be increased. Will take some of the chairs out of the old rooms.
 - ii. Do you prefer tiered seating or flat? It's for all subjects.
 - 1. I favor tiered, but I don't like tiered when it's multiple rows on the same tier. Still have the problem of not being able to see. I would say in anything over 40.
 - 2. In the small classrooms it might be important to keep it flat to have the option to be able to move.
 - 3. Have you discussed the difference in cost?
 - a. Not that much of a difference, in the budget to allow for it.
 - iii. Would you prefer a table that's cemented to the floor with a plug in it and a swivel chair? They are going to be eliminating white board and adding multiple screens.
 - 1. I would go for whatever is easier to maintain.
 - 2. I would say chairs that can be moved are important.
 - 3. I think having plug ins in the tables is very important.
 - 4. In a lot of my classes we have groups; one of the problems with this not being to move tables is not being able to communicate in a group.
 - 5. Regardless of the size of the room, movable chairs are important, especially for someone in a wheelchair.
 - 6. The tiered has to be stationary; the 64 seat classroom can be moveable.

7. How many rooms are in this new building?
 - a. 70 classrooms.
8. Could you do a variety?
 - a. They want to have a set for the size. There will accommodations but will be very limited.
 - b. Building will be for all majors.
9. I would suggest a mixture of both of them.
 - a. There will be classrooms for different subjects like math that just need a lecture hall.
- iv. How do you feel about having more than one board on walls is that you will have to be turning? Is that something that will bother you?
 1. Yes, the focus should be teaching space.
 2. If there are stationary tables it will be a hassle.
 3. I don't see a teacher walking around a room and writing on all the boards.
 4. I would like to see more money spent on tech boards, as opposed to spending more money on white boards.
 - a. We are trying to make the building in a way that can be improved on in the future.
 5. Movable and multiple boards are good too.
 - a. I think that might be moving backward instead of moving ahead. They don't want wipe off boards at all.
- v. Will be a general access building, do you think you can work in horseshoe room?
 1. See an issue if you are sitting in the middle.
 - a. Teachers like these because they can walk into the middle. But I see a problem if you are sitting at the very end.
 2. I see a concern if you are sitting in the middle. The nice thing is you are closer to the professor.
 3. What about putting a gap right in middle for accessibility?
 4. With the professor in the middle, they will have their back to half the class. It's already hard enough to hear some of my professors. This seems like a not very good use of space.
 5. I would struggle with looking at the board. And as far as there being more space per person, that's only because there is wasted space in the middle.
 6. I like that you are only 3 people away from the instructor and teachers perform better when they know students are paying attention to them.
 7. There is a benefit to this type of room and a use for it.
 8. I think it opens up discussion.
 - a. But we have to remember these are general access classrooms, is it practical for math?
 9. If a teacher wants to have that classroom, there is probably a reason.

10. I would say merge the screens and make it one, if you are in the middle of the second one it will be difficult to see.
 11. If there is an emergency in the building it will be hard to get out in a timely manner, I would like to see it more like Frederic Theatre, split up in sections.
 12. For accessibility, you should also be able to sit in any seat, not just at the end of the rows.
- vi. Doors in back of the classroom versus doors in front.
1. Back is good.
 - a. Some have in the front for natural light. Are you okay in that sense with the door in the front?
 - i. I think if it means having a better classroom then it should be done.
- vii. Is a free space somewhere you want to study or a place to chat with friends?
1. I like the spaces with chairs and seating for in between classes.
 2. I like the second floor with couches.
 3. So kind of like a study space but comfortable.
 4. I don't think it should be a space where people have group meetings or stuff like that because that's what libraries are for.
- viii. Should there be computers available in this space?
1. I think if you want computers it should be a lab.
 2. Having those spots there is a good opportunity to network.
 3. We need to remember this will be an academic building; the stuff in Cartwright is because it is a student union place. If you need a computer it's not far from the lab. I would say study area versus free space.
 4. Hookups should be available.
 5. I prefer an enclosed room where it's quiet.
 6. I am all for the study area but not with couches because it's a waste of space.
 7. A bunch of little study coaches and tables would be great.
 8. Incorporate stuff for studying, against TVs or anything like that.
 9. I think it would be great to have more group rooms.
 10. I don't think it's too much to ask to have a space in an academic for studying. Since it will be several floors maybe the first floor space can be more laid back.
 11. I think we should go look at Madison and how they have it set up.
 12. I think there should be a computer lab, maybe not as big as Wimberley. More like Cartwright size. If you forget something and having to run to another building to print it out is a pain. In Madison they have a flat panel screen with no sound that runs info on news. If you do have one of those comfortable spaces

maybe that would be good. I also like the tall tables, like in Murphy.

13. I think having a computer room in the building is a necessity. We need an up to date computer lab. I can't believe it's not in there.

a. There is a technology budget and we have a good amount of money for that.

b. Kahle

- i. Parking Appeals met yesterday
- ii. Orgs committee met last week
- iii. We have a new WWI course, Russian Studies Certification Program available.

c. Apportionment

- i. We awarded women's hockey a one-shot for a goalie bag; afterwards they got a gift of a brand new goalie bag. So they no longer need the money for the bag, but they do need a new goalie blocker. Apportionment felt it was okay to let them use the money for that, although we do say that they can not spend one-shot money on whatever they want.
 1. It was approved formally and it has to be amended formally. There would have to be a resolution and it would be a two week process.
 2. I think we should just let it go.
 3. Can we just do it over J-term?
 - a. It would just be the exec board and we could make the decision.
 4. Can we suspend the rules?
 5. I think we will just have the exec board deal with it tonight and bring it back to senate next semester.

d. CAPS

- i. Will be voting on retake policy next semester.
 1. Please let us know when meeting will be.

e. New Academic Building Meeting

- i. Can send out new floor plans. If you want them let me know.

X. New Business

a. Quorum called.

- i. Quorum met.

b. National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) request for use of the Recreational Eagle Center (REC)

- i. Motion to package all three.
- ii. Fuhrmann/Rome
 1. Passed.

iii. Discussion

1. Call to question

a. All three resolutions passed.

c. Regional Basketball Tournament Facilities Request

d. Amendment: AAU Basketball Tournament Facility Request

XI. Discussion

- a. Resolution Granting Organizational Status to the Gaming Club
 - i. Hammen/Fuhrmann
 - ii. The Gaming Club is more electronic gaming.
 - iii. Discussion
 - 1. Motion to close discussion
 - a. Csargo/Hammen
 - i. Discussion closed.
- b. Resolution Granting Organizational Status to the History Club
 - i. Motion to open discussion
 - 1. Schooley/Hammen
 - ii. Motion to close discussion
 - 1. Acclimation called.
 - a. Discussion closed
- c. UW-L Student Association Statement on Course Retake Policy
 - i. Motion to package line item c and d
 - 1. Bayer
 - a. Discussion packaged.
 - ii. The ending clauses are contradictory to each other. This is the first time this happens. We think both represent a valid standpoint. These resolutions will go to Academic Affairs committee; they will try to make one resolution. They will not be moving on to new business.
 - iii. Motion to open discussion
 - 1. Hammen/Cerwin
 - iv. First Resolution
 - 1. Many of us feel that some sort of policy on retake needs to be taken, our biggest concern was the averaging of grades.
 - 2. To help weed out those who take advantage of this system. Education should not be about taking a class 3 times. I think if there is only one chance to retake, students will be more apt to doing it right the first time. This is the first step in approving the quality of the student body and professors.
 - 3. We also talked about students who have to drop out because of specific reasons, there are opportunities for them.
 - v. Second Resolution
 - 1. We are against both the first and the second part of the policy. If you look at the Equity Scorecard it says students of color are still not graduating at same rate of white students. It's not based on who is smarter and who is not. The issue is there is something in the system that is preventing them from doing as well. The university is providing barriers for them. The assumption is most of the students who come here are coming from the same educational background. If for some reason I fail two classes, that means I have no other option than to drop out of the university.

2. This is a resource issue. We don't have enough resources for students. With GQA it will be different. We should be not changing our academic standards to fit our resources. Out of 20 of our Native American students, only two of them would be here if this policy was in place last year. Has any org been consulted at all? Has there input been taken? Have we thought about any other options that wouldn't affect minorities? Giving the educators more freedom will be better. If you think about the number of students retaking these courses, how will they all get to talk to deans? It will have a negative impact on the quality of education this university has. What are the chances that a professor will give you a passing grade so that you won't drop out of the university? I think it's pretty high. I asked many professors about this and many said that they would do that because they don't want to not give someone a degree just because they couldn't pass a gen ed class. 70% of computer science majors change their major after first year. You wouldn't have a computer science major if this policy was implemented. I agree that we need a solution, but the affects of this has to be looked at.

vi. Discussion

1. I will not endorse any resolution at this point because it is too soon. This policy goes against the principles of education. We still pay money for these courses. I started a distribution list for people against this policy. I need to take chemistry and I find it hard to get into, but I want to know what else this department is doing to fix this? Why aren't they offering it over J-term? When are we going to start holding the individual departments accountable? We haven't seen data from any departments. Where does this policy take into account the responsibility of the professors? There has to be a more research done.
 - a. Point of info
 - i. You cant offer chemistry over J-term because 5 credit course
2. I think as a university we can come up with a better solution. We have a higher graduation rate than Eau Claire and Oshkosh, who have this policy in place. Our rates are higher across the board. Diversity is important; there are also students who work 40 hrs a week. If I do badly in a class I will be penalized because I have to work to be in school. I am against it.
3. Right now there is no cap on how many appeals there can be. If students are trying and seeking help, that is grounds for an appeal. I think work hours would be taken into consideration. Also an issue with language would be grounds for an appeal. I would like there to be a survey done or maybe so far as a

referendum. I think if this impacts all students then they should be a part of this decision.

4. I want to stress that this is a very serious situation. I don't want to accuse of any professor of this on campus, but we know racism still exists. That's why I'm against the grade average. Encourage all of you to go to CAPS. Bring your constituents. The faculty dominates that committee. Racism was a hot topic. I think there should be more than one appeals process avenue. It can't stop at the dean. I don't think we should limit ourselves.
5. Would like to thank Tanmaya for doing this. It totally changed my mind. There is a problem that we need to address and this is not the way. There are facts that need to be addressed, he did a fantastic job.
6. I also changed my mind. I think we should go to the CAPS meeting with many students and show them how it's done. I don't think there has been any research done. We have been misled and we should take a stance.
7. I think everyone's in a agreement that the second part of it is not something that should be a policy change. This goes along with the seg fee thing; we shouldn't be making policy that relies on the judgment of one person.
8. I am a freshman and a premed student. As a premed student I knew that my GPA would be recalculated.
9. Why are we targeting every student?
10. I also forget to mention that we are having more students with anxiety issues. One of there concerns is we will have more students with learning challenges, anxiety issues. I spoke to two deans who are against this policy.
11. I think this was rushed and we need more time to think this through.
12. A 'W' would also count as one time that you took the course. That is a serious issue. Also if we have a wishy washy appeal process, we will be back to square one. And we can't approve anything without having the appeal process in place. And we can still appeal to faculty senate after CAPS. Maybe we should look at a policy where we can't register for courses until we meet with our advisors.
13. I feel betrayed as a senator that we weren't part of the development process. There are a lot of staff that do a lot of advising and they weren't taken into consideration either.
14. Please send us emails with thoughts. Tanmaya and I will be collaborating over J-term.
15. We want to send as strong a statement as we can as early as we can. We don't want to wait until faculty senate.

16. There is no one answer for the problem. I do think departments are doing a lot.

17. I like what was said about statistics. Averaging GPAs is not good. I do agree that we are rushing this, but something does have to be done.

18. I think everyone said their piece, Motion to close discussion

a. Cerwin/Holzem

b. Discussion closed.

d. Resolution Opposing the Proposed Change to the Retake Policy

XII. Announcements

a. Very important that all people who attended Richland GA see Allen after meeting.

b. Check mailboxes and clean them out before you leave.

c. The BOD and senate have done a lot this year. I think Lauren deserves a round of applause.

d. I want to say goodbye to everyone.

e. Thanks to all who are leaving senate this semester.

XIII. Adjournment

a. Bayer/Hammen

i. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

