



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – LA CROSSE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: 09.24.2008

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 6:094pm
- II. Role Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Decker/Cerwin
 - b. Minutes approved
- IV. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Changes
 - i. Added the freshman senate election results and a resolution appointing the new CFO. Also changed the student committee assignments. I changed one apportionment seat to a freshman seat; I changed the co chair name.
 - b. Agenda approved
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Chancellor Joe Gow
 - i. I see we don't have Kyle here tonight; Karly will do a fine job. I am happy to talk about anything you would like to talk about. Let's open it up and I am happy to answer any questions.
 1. A lot of students are concerned with the Pro Life people here today, were they stepping over any lines?
 - a. Like many of you I passed a rather graphic photo, and when I was in my office I could here shouting and realized there were several people shouting to other students. I got several emails and people came into see me who were very disturbed by this. I talked to Paula and she told me most of the campus is considered free speech space. Unless they are impeding the flow of the traffic, if they are creating a danger, this is where it gets tricky because some people said they felt very uncomfortable and I think the best thing to do is err on the side of free speech. If there is a clear and present danger then you don't have free speech. The other thing is the obscene photos, I would imagine if you said what you saw out there was obscene then they would say that it had scientific and political value. I think the best thing to do is leave them alone and ignore them. It wouldn't be something I would want on this campus.

It's like the flag thing, we didn't impede on their free speech we simply expressed our concerns. A lot of times in the art world, there are things that are done that are on the other end. There is a famous work of art called Piss Christ and that is on the other end of the spectrum.

2. I respect everyone's opinion but I have a problem when people try to force their opinions. I know there are some places where speech can be restricted. It is distributive to learning when we can hear them in the classroom.
 - a. It could be challenging to say that it truly was disruptive; they could say that the marching band was disruptive. And what your idea is of harassing they could say is just forceful.
 - b. There are only three cases where we would intervene this: if it was causing danger, if they were harassing a certain individual, or if they are going against the institution.
 - c. With me I don't have nearly as much protection as you do because I am a public figure.
3. Today they were yelling at people and calling them names, would that be considered a violation?
 - a. I used to advise a student radio station and some students would play some songs with certain words in them, and sometimes we couldn't do anything to stop them. We could go out there and say stop that and arrest them, but I would rather not go down that path.
4. When do we get to do the Eagle Roundtable?
 - a. It's on the schedule.
5. Some people had video cameras and I am wondering if that is ok?
 - a. We live in a world where everyone can do that and I don't think there are any laws against that.
 - b. All of these situations are unique; I have talk to system legal 5 times this week. Although we have some rule sin the book we have to use judgment. The campus police did go and talk to them. They are all very unique and very difficult situations.
 - c. Imagine if that were an end the world rally and people were shouting, then someone could say that they found that deeply offensive, and then there would also be supporters. We as an institution can't decide who has good views or bad.
 - d. There is legal precedent; if we act to remove them then we would end up in a law suit. There's reasons that so many free speech lawsuits that have occurred on

campus. We have to grin and bear it until it crosses another line.

6. Last year UW Stout had a similar situation and in that instance the students rallied around those people, and the police had to get involved because of the students. If that happened on this campus what would happen?
 - a. It is my understanding that this did happen on this campus before. It was individuals and they were circled around people against LGBTQ people. If we thought it was harmful we would try to stop it. If it was a matter where it was impeding traffic into a building then we would ask them to move. It would be that kind of response that we would take.
7. There were some people that were made to feel so uncomfortable that they couldn't go to class today. If they are here all week, then what kind of services do we have for students that can't handle it?
 - a. I am not sure how this would work. Has there ever been a case where their emotional distress didn't allow them to go to class? There are times where a student gets offended when a professor cursed in class. In Michigan a teacher said something offensive with language and about nuns, so someone said they were uncomfortable in the classroom. That went through the courts and it was ruled that the student was correct and the teacher was fired. I feel really bad, I know people were very upset, but it is a test of our adherence to the first amendment. That business with the flag display, we got our point out. if there are people who felt excluded, I want to get that out there. I am happy about that outcome.
 - b. We did have a conversation with this group, and they indicated to us that they were just here for today. We did have a student who felt unsafe and we take that very seriously. We had the assistant dean Myamoto walk around with a student today.
8. It totally put a damper on my voter registration drive. It is nonpartisan voter registration and I didn't know what right I had to step away from my table.
 - a. My understanding is you reserved the space, and you have a legit right to be there. You need to call campus police or our staff so that they give you the space , you are approved by the university to have that space.
9. I missed about three busses because I couldn't help not saying anything to them. Although a majority of us were thinking he was wrong, there were students who went up and were

defending them. I don't think there is a need for action because they know their message wasn't accepted. I don't think we have the right to tell them to leave. One of the guys had a shirt on that said protect your kids, ban homosexuality, and the debate was getting out of control, so we were all their trying to guide the conversation. So when it comes to things like that I do think there should be some kind of restriction. Also they didn't have sources or credibility.

- a. I think cooler heads will prevail. You have to ask yourselves, why do we have the rules that we do and why are we willing to let that happen? Because we think it is really important to let people say what they want to say. Not all countries have that.
10. We have been on this for 45 minutes. What is going on with the centennial project and the building?
 - a. The foundation still has money to raise. The building will be on schedule and the new res hall will begin. A lot of things are happening, and I hope people are ready for a major construction going on in the middle of campus.
 11. We do have a right to tell them they are wrong. If you don't feel like you can control yourself then it is up to you to walk away. I have heard that 5 or ten yrs ago there were plans on upgrading some of the facilities; is that still going to happen?
 - a. A lot of the buildings were built in the mid 60s and they are wearing out. There will be issues about how to work through all of that, and we want to make a renovation in Cowley in the coming yrs. I wasn't here when the priorities were established, so I can't tell you if they were changed. We have what we have and no one could have seen the fiscal crisis we are in and hopefully it doesn't affect our banks in La Crosse. Hopefully it is all of the states contribution. People get in my face about it, I was in an art gala and one person came and told me I was spending too much money on athletics, and then I'll go to an athletics banquet and they tell me their thing is the most important. I am glad people think their thing is the most important.
 12. What do you think about the Amethyst Initiative?
 - a. It is a group of about 120 college presidents who say that the 21 year old drinking age isn't working, and they want to have a conversation about this issue. I think the drinking laws don't stop people from drinking, but I haven't seen data that says that lowering the drinking age would help, so I want to wait and see what happens. I got a phone call and had a conversation

with a woman who thought it would be a horrible idea to lower the drinking age, because her daughter was killed by a 19 yr old drunk driver. It is one of the most divisive issues that I have seen and I think that the group lost a little when the New York Times wrote an article saying this was a bad idea. I do agree that we need to look at this closely and think about it.

13. Would it be possible to have a campus officer there to help make a better environment?

a. On the surface it sounds like a great idea, and we could do that. We did have the campus police check in and out. What happens is it could make it worse. If they are back tomorrow we will certainly have the police checking in on them.

14. We had the chancellor retreat and we had a conversation about how we could get students more involved with regents and they said we really have it right.

b. Provost Kathleen Enz Finken

i. I started in May, I am really impressed here tonight to see so many senators. I don't have anything quite as controversial, I was invited to introduce myself. I am originally from New Jersey, I have been a dean and I am very fortunate to be here. Some of the things we are working on: the facilities issue- the academic building is at 75 percent completion, moving along according to schedule. With respect to some of the other buildings, I have an understanding of the issues and the problems, we are going to try to make as many upgrades as we can and it is a careful balance because we don't have a lot of money. There are a lot of things being worked on. One of the things I saw when I came here is that there are a lot of opportunities for faculty to become better, we have people that help them with writing, or online courses. We are trying to provide support for them since we are going to be bringing a lot of new faculty on campus. Search and screen committees are being made all over campus. I expect in the spring you will have all kinds of visitors to campus. it will be a really big deal and we want to do a really good job. We will also be hiring staff.

1. With all of these new faculty positions, I know there are varying search and screen costs, what can they be attributed to?

a. Every time we search for a new member there are costs associated with that. GQA is covering that and they are associated with placing ads in educational journals, and we also have to bring the candidates to campus and that is expensive. We have to fly them here, pay their lodging and meals. Sometimes we have to set up labs after we hire someone; the costs vary from field to field. We aren't using money that we have on campus currently. Every time you add a new faculty member

you have to pay for their conferences, office supplies, other professional things. We have to add that to the budgets.

2. You mentioned the search and screens, what is being done to incorporate students as much as possible? The faculty are knowledgeable in the field they are hired for but not necessarily in dealing with students.
 - a. They generally are for staff positions, but not so much with faculty positions and it is up to the department. At this institution, every department has its own bylaws. I think CLS has student participation, you would have to work with the deans
3. Who oversees the bylaws?
 - a. The chair of the department in each case. Many of the departments are reviewing their bylaws. You could send out a resolution or simply a memo to each department. The deans are ultimately responsible for the searches. That is a good point and sometimes it is very beneficial and sometimes its not.
4. How many additional dollars were raised this year?
 - a. I could tell you how many positions. The new students that came this year are paying a higher tuition, and the students after them will as well. This year we will have 14 new faculty and next year it will be more. There was not a large student representation on the joint planning and budget and we increased that at your request.
5. I can't remember how long it is until GQA and has to go to review, and if it wasn't passed again do we know how that would affect the university.
 - a. The assessment is in 5 years, and I doubt that they would repeal that. We still have almost the highest student faculty ratio for universities of our kind, so we are going to bring that down. I don't know of anyone who would want to change that. I haven't received any phone calls about the tuition; we feel that was the right thing to do and you will see the benefits of that very soon.
 - b. The state sets a tuition target for us that we have to meet, and we have been exceeding it and the state is very happy with the way we are progressing so I don't think they would go back and reverse the progress that we have made.
6. What's the current status with Gen Ed?
 - a. The reform has been going on for about twenty years on this campus. I don't know what we are going to do this year. Some of the people in that need to step back and

let things settle. We are going to see if there is enough energy to move forward. I hope we can come to some resolution for it so that we can be done. It is another one of those things we probably don't want to do too much with right now. I talked to my faculty assistant and he is from the math dep. He expects about 300 applications for two positions.

7. This is a far fetched idea, but it seems like nothing could possibly ever get done in Gen Ed. Does it have to go through that channel?
 - a. This campus is very strongly shared governance. for my purposes, the question is if anyone else can facilitate the process, but I don't think we can do it this year with so many things on the plate. The implications are huge for other departments. People are afraid of loosing faculty positions, and that is the kind of thing I can work to change. We have to go to the core of the issues and fix that before we work on other issues.
 - b. I am curious to know what students think about it, maybe a survey would be very enlightening.
 8. Everyone of the faculty has such an interest in the outcome, and it is put in the hands of the people that would be the least likely to change it.
 - a. That is why we need to remove some of the barriers. We will work on that, it is just a question of timing.
 9. Would it be possible to eliminate a gen ed program, so instead of hiring new people, we could just restructure the department a little bit?
 - a. In some cases you might want to have faculty contribute in some other way. But when you are talking about a program that is so large, it would be almost impossible to do away with and create something else. Any university has to review its curriculum. I am sure we are teaching some classes that were put together 30 yrs ago and have to be revised.
- ii. Quorum called.

VI. Officer Reports

a. Derek

i. Emergency Approval of Non-Academic Tribunal Temporary Members

1. There are a lot of new faces in senate. These students are appointed by Kyle and I and goes through approval of senate. This process is in place right now, but we need two students right now. We need the emergency appointments and they are here tonight so that senate knows who they are.
2. Is there any objection?
 - a. None.

- 3. Passes
- ii. Updates on open SAH and CLS senator positions and student court
 - 1. We have applications for all of these, please do a class rap, let people know these positions are available. If you could help me out with that I would really appreciate it.
- iii. CFO
 - 1. Lindsay is here today and that is not as time sensitive, so we can go through the normal procedures.
- iv. IDs
 - 1. If your IDs don't get you into the office, please stop by and put your name on this notepad along with you number.
- b. Kyle
- c. Others
 - i. Barton
 - 1. I have been doing some things to keep you all informed. I am passing around the budget that all of the regents are going to see, and I just put in everything that is relevant to La Crosse. There are a lot of really good facts in here written by the state. You can compare what we got and what other schools got.
 - 2. In the back of our training binders we have legislative updates and I will break it down and just send out what is relevant to you.
 - 3. We want to start an initiative on campus to do a publicity thing on the legislature to show who we have representing us right now and who we could vote for.
 - 4. The regents meeting- we are holding it here in December, we have an awesome reputation for representing at the meetings. It looks amazing and really great. Who would you rather fund? I think it would be really awesome if we all took an hour out of the day and sit in the meetings. We are really going to engage with these regents and show them how much we care.
 - ii. Keng
 - 1. If you have any problems or issues you can always do it through campus climate. They can always help you.
 - iii. Griffin
 - 1. Open senator positions
 - iv. O'Hare
 - 1. The soccer games have been changed from buses to taxis. It wasn't fiscally responsible to keep running buses to the soccer games.
 - v. Fuhrmann
 - 1. We will have a BOD meeting on Friday at 2:15, if you have any issues that is what we are here for. Pick the director that you think would fit the best and let us know. That is what we are hired for.
 - vi. Leffleman

1. Today was the last deputization session. We are right in the middle of a voter reg drive. I have a goal of 250 for tomorrow. I think we can do it. If you sign up, please show up. Please make sure you are filling out the forms correctly.

VII. RHAC Report

- a. We passed a resolution recommending the 2,000 dollars for the buses.

VIII. Advisor Reports

- a. The one on one meetings, I have already met with nine of you. I have a sheet for next week. All of the meetings will be in the senate office, unless you want to meet somewhere else. I have space for 12 meetings. If you can't do it this week there are still several more weeks when we can meet.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Deans Search and Screen for College of Liberal Studies
 - i. We got everything together so we don't have to meet until December
- b. Joint Planning and Budget
 - i. We are reviewing the process of how we are going to hire the non academic staff. If you have any questions about it ask me and I can provide some info for you.
- c. Academic Affairs
 - i. We need to get commencement speakers for December. We are also charged with the collegiate readership program
- d. Apportionment
 - i. Good turn out for the training. We will be looking at carryovers on Monday.

X. New Business

- a. SA 0809-002: Resolution on Appointing the UW-LSA Board of Directors
 - i. Groshek/Wolf
 - ii. Discussion
 1. I think Elena is the best person for this position. Call to question
 2. Approved
 - a. One abstention
- b. Student Senate Student Committee Appointments
 - i. Allen/Syafitri
 - ii. Discussion
 1. Point of info- with these committees, when are we going to notify them of when the meetings are?
 - a. The convener will notify you. Hopefully it will be soon.
 2. Motion to add Sarah Turner to the orgs committee
 - a. Klotz/Kahl
 - b. Call to question
 - c. Acclimation
 - d. Passed.
 3. Point of info, what about the CFO for apportionment?
 - a. Anything we leave vacant the committee can fill.
 4. Call to question

- a. Acclimation
 - i. Approved.
- c. Student Senate Faculty and Joint Committee Appointments
 - i. Allen/Thiel
 - ii. Discussion
 - 1. Point of clarification- I would like to address the GCC Grad Committee, those names were passed to us, they all came with bios, and I haven't met with any of them. They sounded great and they were personally recommended to us.
 - 2. motion to add senator VanWinkle to library
 - a. I will refrain from doing that right now because he is not here to accept that.
 - 3. call to question
 - a. Acclimation
 - b. Approved.

XI. Discussion

- a. SA 0809-003: Academic Affairs Committee Recommendations for AIO Committee Membership
 - i. Decker/Thiel
 - ii. The committee is charged with nominating members to be on the academic affairs oversight committee. They really need to get going as soon as possible. We were forwarded nominations from Paula. It says we are approving four students but a fifth can be approved once they get going. It is important that they get going as soon as possible.
 - iii. Discussion
 - 1. motion to suspend the rule and move this into new business
 - a. Kahl/Klotz
 - b. Right now we are voting to suspend the rule that says we have to go through a two week process until we vote on this.
 - c. 2/3rds vote.
 - i. Passes 26:0:3
 - iv. Motion to approve line item a in new business
 - 1. Kahl/Wolf
 - 2. Point of info- May I nominate someone else for this committee?
 - a. It would be out of order because the recommendations come out of the committee.
 - b. Call to question
 - i. Acclimation
 - 1. Approved.
- b. 2008-2009 Freshman Senate Election Results
 - i. Cerwin/Allen
 - ii. There were 212 votes and Eric and Katie won.
 - 1. Eric Schmidt- I really want to get involved and be an active part of what's going on.

2. Katie Van Wyk- Major is Spanish and Math, I ran to get more involved.
- iii. Discussion
 1. Where there any complaints with the elections?
 - a. The election bylaws say that there is a two week period in which the people that ran can file any complaints.
 2. Motion to close discussion
 - a. Allen/Hougen
 - b. Discussion closed.
- c. SA 0809-004: Resolution on Appointing the UW-LSA Board of Directors
 - i. Decker/Turner
 - ii. We went through an application process and had a really strong pool.
 - iii. Lindsay (CFO)- Accounting major and econ minor. I am excited to do this.
 - iv. Discussion
 1. Was the applicant pool revisited or reopened?
 - a. It was revisited based on the number of applicants.
 2. What is her position on moving the student org reserve into an account that would earn interest?
 3. To my knowledge they are government funds and we can't invest them in any way. We can't remove them and put them in an IRA if we wanted to. Seg fees are state tax payer funds that they can manipulate, but we don't have the option to do the same.
 4. Motion to close
 - a. Allen/Hayes
 5. Closed.

XII. Announcements

- a. Athletics- tennis and soccer both at home this weekend. Call a taxi and get there for free.
- b. Rectoberfest, you can win a really nice bike. There will be games and food on Friday nine to midnight.
- c. This Thursday we are having disc golf by Rainbow Unity
- d. October 4th there will be a conference here and a speaker from the Hmong org on campus.
- e. You can volunteer this weekend for River Watch. Talk to your orgs. I am looking for some volunteers for Thursday through Saturday for the aid station as well. There is a sign up going around. Have a safe weekend.
- f. I am sorry if pronounced your names wrong, and thank you for being so great. Kyle will be back next week
- g. Sat night we are having a party at my place (Decker) everyone is welcome
- h. Give Karly a round of applause for doing a great job tonight

XIII. Adjournment

- a. Allen/Herro
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

