



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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## **SA 0910-020: Resolution Requesting a Special Referendum for the Academic Initiatives Differential Tuition**

DATE: November 2, 2009

AUTHOR: Karly Wallace

WHEREAS; the Academic Initiatives differential tuition program will be assessed by the UW-System Board of Regents during the February Board of Regents meeting; and,

WHEREAS; the Academic Initiative Assessment Task Force is reviewing the programs currently funded and making suggestions for future funding; and,

WHEREAS; the task force has spent the last year gathering data about the programs funded; and,

WHEREAS; the task force is assigned with putting together a report for the Board of Regents; and,

WHEREAS; the Board of Regents have said they will be cautious about differential tuition increases for the upcoming year; and,

WHEREAS; Chancellor Gow would like to seek the opinion of the entire student body and would like to hold a student referendum on this topic; and,

WHEREAS; the data gathered from the referendum will be added to the report presented to the Board of Regents; and,

WHEREAS; historically, the Board of Regents has followed the opinion of student referendums; and,

WHEREAS; Student Association is permitted to hold one special referendum every six month period; and,

WHEREAS; the last special referendum occurred on April 30, 2009; and,

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Karly Wallace  
President-Student Senate  
Vice-President-Student Association

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Date

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Erik Kahl  
President-Student Association

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Date

WHEREAS; the requesting year for the academic initiatives differential tuition is this current year and the next requesting period will not be for another five years; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association hold a special referendum for the Academic Initiatives differential tuition program on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 from 7am until 6pm; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the referendum question have an educational portion preceding the referendum question; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the educational portion say the following:

“Academic Initiatives differential tuition was approved by students beginning in 2004 at the rate of \$20 per semester or \$40 per year. This program is required to be assessed and then be reviewed by the UW-System Board of Regents for re-authorization every five years. Students currently pay \$30 per semester or \$60 per year. Academic Initiatives differential tuition currently funds the following services and programming: the Academic Advising Center, the Campus Climate Office, undergraduate and graduate research grants, international education stipends, Disability Resource Services, an Admissions diversity recruiter, the Learning Center, and additional Murphy Library hours.

There has been a reserve balance in the Academic Initiatives differential tuition account; therefore, only minimal increases in the \$30 per semester or \$60 per year fee have been required since 2004. In this period of state funding cuts, the reserves can no longer sustain the current services and programming. Therefore, in order to maintain the current amount and quality of services and programming provided by our Academic Initiatives differential tuition, an increase in the fee to \$52.50 per semester or \$105 per year is necessary.

The proposal for 2010-2011 requests funds for the following programs:

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Programs receiving inflationary (or “cost to continue”) increases:

- Academic Advising Center
- Campus Climate Office
- Diversity Recruiter

Enhanced or expanded programs to be funded:

- Library Hours
- Library Databases
- Learning Center- Writing, Science, and Math Tutoring
- Undergraduate and Graduate Research Grants
- International Education Stipends
- Disability Resource Services Testing Support
- Violence Prevention Office

To continue the current Academic Initiative program without enhancements or expansions, additional fees will be necessary; however, the Academic Initiatives differential tuition would not exceed \$52.50 per semester or \$105 for the full academic year.”

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that the referendum questions say:

Do you support funding the Academic Initiative program at the level needed to sustain its current services and programs through differential tuition as previously stated?  
YES or NO

Do you support funding the enhanced and expanded programs to the Academic Initiative program as previously proposed at a cost of **no more than** an additional \$7.50 per semester or \$15 per year?  
YES or NO

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Karly Wallace  
President-Student Senate  
Vice-President-Student Association

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Date

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President-Student Association

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