

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE STUDENT SENATE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1.1-

The name of this governing body shall be the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate, hereafter “Student Senate.”

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 2.1-

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate exists to serve as a representative body of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association. The Student Senate will represent students by promoting, advocating and working on student rights and student issues.

ARTICLE III – MISSION STATEMENT

UW-L Student Senate seeks to provide a student voice by advocating for student rights and responsibilities, fostering leadership, communicating student issues, and demonstrating respect for diversity in our actions.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.1-

In accordance with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association, hereafter “UWLSA,” the Student Senate membership shall consist of thirty-five (35) voting members. Seventeen (17) of these members must be elected by their respective colleges, two (2) of the seats will be for Freshmen, two (2) of the seats will be for Graduate students, five (5) other members which will be defined in a subsequent subsection, and nine (9) members shall be reserved for diversity organization representation.

3.101- College Representatives will comprise seventeen (17) of the total thirty-five (35) senators. Representation for each college will be determined by taking the percentage that the number of students in each college or school represents in the total school population.

3.102- Human Diversity Organizations – 9 Senators, 1 Senator for each of the following organizations:

- (a) Latin American Student Organization (LASO)
- (b) Black Student Unity (BSU)
- (c) Students Advocating for Potential Ability (SAPA)
- (d) Rainbow Unity (RU)
- (e) Native American Student Association (NASA)
- (f) Asian Student Organization (ASO)
- (g) Hmong Organization Promoting Education (HOPE)
- (h) International Student Organization (ISO)
- (i) Student Veteran Organization (SVO)

The above mentioned nine (9) seats will be on a permanent basis for the organization. The organizations will elect their senate membership every year. The duration and the membership can be modified because of the following reasons:

- (1) In the case that a student organization is unable to elect a person during the first six (6) weeks of a new Senate term, that particular Senate seat can be awarded for one (1) Senate term to another Human Diversity Organization (as defined by University Centers) through an application process defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.

- (2) If a student organization mentioned above is no longer recognized by the University Centers then the Senate seat can be awarded on a permanent basis through the application processed defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.
- (3) In case of an increase in the number of seats for Human Diversity Organization the increased seats will be awarded for a two (2) year term to a recognized Human Diversity Organization by an application process defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.

3.103 – Other Senators – 5 Senators

- (a) Residence Hall Association Council (RHAC) – 2 Senators
- (b) Greek – 1 Senator
- (c) Athletics – 1 Senator
- (d) Returning Adult Student Organization (RASO) – 1 Senator

3.104 – Specially elected Senators – 4 Senators

- (a) Freshman (First-Year Students) – 2 Senators
- (b) Graduate – 2 Senators

ARTICLE V – POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 4.1- Student Senate

4.101- Provide the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, UW-System, and Wisconsin governing bodies with recommendations and resolutions showing student viewpoint on issues.

4.102- Approve and amend resolutions brought forth by any Primary Committee of Student Association. Financial resolutions must pass by a 2/3 vote.

- (a) Primary Committees are those that handle issues over which the student body is the final authority.
- (b) These include: Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC), Student Services and Buildings Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Organizations Committee, Cultural Affairs Committee, Athletics Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, and Human Diversity Organization Committee.

4.103- Endorse resolutions brought forth by any Secondary Committee of Student Association.

- (a) Secondary Committees are those that handle issues over which the student body is not the final authority but should be consulted.
- (b) These include: Student Technology Fee Committee, Campus Community Enrichment Fund Committee, and Academic Initiatives Oversight Committee.

4.104- Gather opinions from the student body.

4.105- Develop policies and issue opinions on behalf of the student body.

4.106- Conduct weekly open meetings while the fall and spring terms are in session.

4.107- Respectfully consider all student issues in the spirit of the Student Senate Mission Statement.

4.108- Maintain records of all legislative procedures.

4.109- Elect a President Pro-Tempore who shall serve as chair of the Senate meetings when the President of the Senate is unable to fulfill his/her duties by a majority.

4.110- Elect two (2) general executives who shall serve as voting members on the UWLSA Board of Directors during J-term and summer months by a majority.

4.111- Approve organizational status, as well as, any recommendations brought forward by the Student Services and Buildings Committee.

4.112- Approve all members of the Court Justices, Election Commission, Replacement Senators and Board of Directors through a 2/3 vote.

4.113- Award someone from outside the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association with, "The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association Higher Education Advocate of the Year."

(a) This award will highlight and thank the achievements of someone outside the organization that has promoted students to be an active part of the community and has been an advocate for students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

(b) Nominations for the award will be solicited until April 15th and the Board of Directors shall decide who will receive the award.

(c) The award shall be presented during a special ceremony sponsored by the Student Senate and coordinated through the President of the Student Senate.

(d) The ceremony shall take place within the last two weeks of April each year.

Section 4.2- Membership

4.201- Members of the Student Senate shall be in attendance at every Student Senate meeting.

(a) Senators are allowed two (2) excused absences per semester with pre-approval from the President of the Senate.

(b) Senators are allowed one (1) unexcused absence per year.

4.202- Senators shall actively serve on a minimum of one (1) student or faculty committee.

Senators are expected to fill vacant committee seats after all Senators have already fulfilled their one (1) committee requirement.

4.203- Senators shall hold at least two (2) registered office hours. Hours shall be posted in the Student Senate office as well as available to the public through the UWLSA website.

4.204- Senators shall be active participants in the fall and spring UWLSA leadership training sessions.

4.205- Student Senators shall conduct themselves in a respectful fashion both within and outside of Student Senate meetings. Behavior that degrades the respect and reputation of the Student Senate will not be tolerated.

4.206- Speaking Rights

(a) Senators shall be given two (2) opportunities to speak during New or Old Business.

(b) Senators may only yield to guests including the UWLSA Board of Directors once per speaking term. Guests may not yield any time to anyone and must yield back to the Senator after concluding their remarks.

(c) Directors will be allowed to present a report to the Senate, but are only allowed speaking rights when they have a point of information or point of clarification. These actions shall be deemed necessary by the chair and Directors will only be allowed to speak after the chair acknowledged them and granted permission for them to speak. The chair may cut off the point of information or point of clarification from a Director at any time. This may be objected by the body if deemed inappropriate as well as the body's ability to challenge the chair.

4.207- Impeachment

(a) Any UWLSA member or Senator can petition the Legislative Affairs Committee to initiate an investigation of any position in the UWLSA accused of being in major violation of a national, state, or local law; of a violation of a major University policy; of failure to uphold the Constitution, appropriate By-Laws, or legislation passed by the UWLSA; of failure to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this Constitution; or any abuses of power.

(b) Petition

- i. The petition to the Legislative Affairs Committee should be in the form of a letter detailing the charges against the accused.
 - ii. A resolution requesting an impeachment investigation must accompany the letter and be presented to the UWLSA.
 - iii. To initiate an impeachment investigation the resolution must be passed by Student Senate with majority vote requesting that the Legislative Affairs Committee investigate.
- (c) The Investigation process is outlined in the Legislative Affairs Committee By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI – PROCEDURES

Section 5.1-

The Student Senate agenda shall consist of the following line items in this order:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes
- VI. Guest Speakers
- VII. Officer Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Chief Financial Officer
 - d. Shared Governance Director
 - e. Legislative Issues Director
 - f. Others
- VIII. Residence Hall Association Council (RHAC) Report
- IX. Advisor Reports
- X. Committee Reports
- XI. Organizational Reports
- XII. Consent Agenda
- XIII. Old Business
- XIV. New Business
- XV. Discussion
- XVI. Announcements
- XVII. Adjournment

5.101- All documents shall be submitted to the President of the Senate at least 48 hours in advance. Any documents submitted to the President of the Senate with less than 48 hours notice from the meeting time may be brought up by the Student Senate at the discretion of the chair with final approval given by the general Student Senate membership.

5.102- The President of the Senate shall record any guests present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 6.1-

The following committees shall be standing committees of the UWLSA Student Senate. Membership, powers, and responsibilities within the committees shall be governed by the respective committee by-laws. If any of these committees changes its name, these bylaws will be adjusted accordingly.

- 6.101- Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC)
- 6.102- Student Services and Buildings Committee
- 6.103- Legislative Affairs Committee
- 6.104- Organizations Committee
- 6.105- Cultural Affairs Committee
- 6.106- Athletics Committee

- 6.107- Academic Affairs Committee
- 6.108- Academic Initiatives Oversight Committee
- 6.109- Academic Initiatives Stipend Committee
- 6.110- Human Diversity Organization Committee
- 6.111- Planning and Process Committee

Section 6.2-

The President of the Senate may create and fold ad-hoc committees with a majority approval of the Senate. S/He shall determine the membership of the committee with consultation from the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1-

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any senator at any time. All amendments must go through a three (3) week process in which the first two weeks the amendments are presented in the Student Senate discussion. The third week, the amendments are presented in new business and must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE IX – ENACTMENT

Section 8.1-

These bylaws shall take effect immediately starting the new session on the first meeting in May, 2009. Membership changes in Article III, Section 3.1 will take effect during the 2010-2011 Session.

Ratified and Enacted 5/6/2009

Amended 2/10/2010

Amended 2/17/2010

Amended 4/28/2010

Amended 11/10/2010

Amended 4/20/2011