



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

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## Student Senate Agenda

**Date:** September 15th, 2021

**Time and Location:** 6:00pm, Student Senate Chambers

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:21p
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Agenda
    - i. Approved unanimously
  - b. Approval of Minutes
    - i. Lochner: I motion to move the resolution about At-Large Senate appointments to come before Old Business so they can vote.
      1. Seconded
- IV. General Student Body Open Forum
- V. Guest Speakers
- VI. Officer Reports
  - a. **President: Jared Zwettler**
    - i. Zwettler: Vice President Cayo and I had a meeting with Chancellor Gow last week Thursday to get introduced, and one of our main takeaways from that meeting was that the vaccine clinic has not been as well utilized as he was anticipating, so we need to continue pushing vaccinations for students. We need to let students know that the vaccine clinic will be here in the middle of October and the middle of November. For those of you who were at the Eagle Fest, it was a huge success. We made a lot of cotton candy and made a lot of connections, and were able to talk about student government. It was great to get out there and get a chance to talk with some students. One other thing we've been working on this past week or so is researching student government director's pay as compared to other UW system schools. Our director's pay was slashed a couple of years ago. For clarification, we are not talking about [President and Vice Presidential] pay, we are talking about the Executive Cabinet. We are in the early stages of researching that. We had our first JPD meeting as well. Vice chancellor Hetzel went through everything in administration and finance. There wasn't a lot that got approved in the last budget, but they are continually looking forward to the plans for Prairie Springs Phase 2. They got approval from the DOA to continue to



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draft those plans and make sure we're ready come the summer of 2023. The big takeaway was that it could not fit in the budget this year, but hopefully getting the budget next cycle.

**b. Vice President: K.C. Cayo**

- i. Cayo: I will be passing around a sheet to put your Office Hours on: please write down who you are, what day of the week you plan on holding office hours, the location you will be holding office hours, and what time. If you represent an organization, you can put down the time and day of your org meeting. You only need to hold 1 hour each week. You can hold more, but you do not need to hold more. Please send me a photo headshot and a brief bio to add to our website so students know who is representing them, along with your Student ID so we can give you swipe access to our COVE offices.

**c. Director of Staff: Olivia Woodmansee**

- i. Woodmansee: We are going to go over a few extra things I didn't cover last meeting. The first one is yielding. When you are called on from the speaker's list, the floor is yours. After you're done speaking make sure you yield. There's two different ways to end a discussion. You will say a call to question, at which point we will all take a vote. Let's say we are in the first week of our resolutions. You would say "move to end discussion", and we need a second to take place there. Thank you for your work last week.

**d. State Affairs Director: Sydney Navoichick**

- i. Navoichick: We got an email about a public hearing in the State Capitol on a piece of legislation that would provide students with more power over student fees. If you would like to travel down to the Capitol on Tuesday or have a written statement to submit, please let me know.

**e. Local Affairs Director: Amy Schweiner**

- i. Schweiner: Next Wednesday is World Car Free Day. LATA, MTU, and UWLSA will be tabling in the Union--I have to make sure the reservation is confirmed.

**f. Inclusivity Director: Paige Vang**

- i. Vang: I am looking into creating an Ad Hoc Committee for the Women of Color Scholarship. If you are interested, please let me know. A senator needs to bring the Motion to Commit form to the senate floor.

**g. Public Relations Director: Jamie Henk**



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- i. Henk: I have a quick outreach feedback survey which has a list of events that we have already had some ideas for. This is just to get your thoughts and feelings on that. It should only take you five minutes tops. Please scan this QR code.
- h. **Sustainability Director: Sophie Byrne**
  - i. Bryne: As far as updates, JCES met for the first time this past week and we talked mainly about appointing committee members. There is also something called the Sustainability Institute here in La Crosse, and they have these things called sustainability checks. I am attending the next one next Wednesday via Zoom, and if you are interested in getting involved let me know. There was the UW Sustainability Conference call that happened this week, and though I was not able to go to that, Ben Zess from SFS went to give student input. The Green Fund Committee has not met yet this semester because we still need students, so if you are interested please let me know. I am working on continuing our plastic bag recycling program and the sustainable period pantry for this semester. I am also looking to organize the Soles for Souls Shoe Drive, which would be a good resource. I am also investigating putting together an Earth Day Festival for this spring.

## VII. Advisor Reports

- a. Burke: Thank you all who attended Eagle Fest. The cotton candy was a huge success. We will be doing vaccinations every Thursday. Just a quick FYI the faculty senate will be using this space, as the space in the Faculty Senate Chambers is a little small to hold meetings while social distancing.
- b. Figueroa: I serve as the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. My office is located in Graff Main Hall. Please make use of my office as I have an open-door policy. I am here to support you all to the best of my ability, whether it's formally or informally. I wanted to take an opportunity to provide additional information. We are trying to connect with students again, so we are hosting the Breakfast of Champions again. We are continuously trying to connect with students, and also want to hear about student experiences. The university will be hosting Family Weekend from October 8th through the 10th, and we have a full schedule of programs and events. There will be opportunities to get the vaccine in Cartwright. Our Student Health Center will continue to provide vaccines.

Cayo: Do we have a date picked out for the Field House walkthrough



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that we discussed at our last meeting?

Figueroa: Is there a time and date that might be more convenient for the majority of you?

Cayo: Afternoon/evenings. We can give you dates.

## VIII. Committee Reports

a. None

## IX. Organizational Reports

- a. McReavy: The Pride Center just started its student org meetings this week. Transform happens this Thursday at 6p. We have had a busy week. We saw almost 500 people alone at our Pride in the Park booth over the weekend.
- b. Fitzgerald: LAC met last night. There's a trail cleanup on Sunday from 4:30- 6:30. One thing we talked about is that we want to be more involved with everything going on. We are ready to mobilize, so please let me know if you have collaboration ideas. We are looking to do something for Veteran's Day. The Athletic Department hosts a breakfast, but I thought it might be an option to write letters to currently deployed military members/

## X. Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution to Appoint an At-Large Senator
  - i. Cayo: We have been doing interviews recently to fill some empty seats that have since rolled over to becoming At-Large seats, and decided to appoint Cassie Ziegler to one of those seats. We are moving this into Unfinished Business so we can get her sworn in so she can vote on further resolutions. I need the two week rule removed on this.

Fitzgerald: Motion to suspend two week rule.

Lochner: Second

Fitzgerald: Call to question.

1. Approved unanimously
- b. Resolution to Approve Student Court Justices
  - i. Zwettler: So this resolution is to reappoint the Student Court Justices. We have five of them here today. Unfortunately, two are out, but we will try to get them sworn in next week. If you have any questions for me, please ask them.

Carroll: Could you just briefly explain this process?



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---

Cayo: We are tasked with approving our Student Court each year, so we are trying to reappoint all the ones from last year. This is just to swear them in so they start doing work. This is the second week for this resolution to be on the floor, which will always be the case unless the resolution is addressing a time-pressing issue.

Fitzgerald: Call to question.

1. Approved unanimously
- c. Resolution in Support of the Victims of the Copeland Park Hate Crime
  - i. McCreavy: So a bit of a refresher, there was an attack against two trans people over the summer at Copeland Park. One of them was injured and there were these slurs involved. This was recently qualified by the city as a hate crime, so the DA will be charging the perpetrator with hate crimes. We want to express our solidarity with the victims. We support them and we condemn these acts of violence. We want them to feel safe on this campus.

Cayo: Can I make a friendly? This last Therefore Be It Resolved should say “Therefore Be It Finally Resolved”.

Carroll: Call to question.

1. Approved unanimously

## XI. New Business

- a. **Resolution Extending a Welcome from UWL Student Association to Afghan Refugees Fleeing Persecution as they Arrive in Western Wisconsin**
  - i. Peters: It’s pretty straightforward, just stating that we welcome refugees as they settle into their new lives here.

Sperling: Will this resolution be sent anywhere as an action item?

Peters: This is just following standard resolution format. It is just reaffirming that we are in support of these people. It will reinforce our values.

Ericson: I think that this could pass as a symbolic message and report that on our social media accounts that we welcome Afghan refugees in our community. I was thinking about



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---

removing the fleeing persecution portion, as well as changing the word Southern Asia to Southeast Asia. I would also like to remove the last line. I just feel like it wasn't necessary.

McReavy: I would support taking the words "fleeing persecution" out of the title because it makes it easier to read and discuss. I think the references are important, though I understand where the intent is with that. I do think that taking it out, addressed to a broader audience. But I do understand the intention.

Mathu: The southeastern Asia one makes sense. Considering politicians have addressed islamophobia in previous legislation, the citation in the whereas makes sense. Future student governments will frequently reference back to past documents that were passed. The title is pretty wordy.

Fleegal: I am wondering if we could change the word "refugee" to "immigrant". I think it has a better political connotation.

Sperling: I like the idea of what Senator Fleegal is going for. They haven't really gone through the customs. I see what you're saying, but I don't know if that would make that anymore accurate.

McReavy: I am in favor of using whatever terminology would feel the least stigmatizing. In defense in the term of using refugees, I think it is more correct to use that terminology. Immigrant has the connotation that somebody chose to want to move, but these folks are making choices that they didn't want to make.

Vang: Coming from a child of refugees, the world refugee shows the reality of refugees, so I would be more comfortable with using that language and connotation.

Ericson: Thinking about it more, refugees are the way to go.

Cayo: One thing with using the word "immigrant" over "refugees" is that it would be more consistent with UWL's messaging, as well as that of progressive groups working



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---

directly with the Afghan community in the area and nationally. This depends on how much we prefer having consistent messaging over the overall impact of using this term.

*Amendment Fails*

Peters: Move to end discussion.

Ericson: Second.

**b. Resolution to Amend the UWLSA Constitution to Promote Fair Elections**

- i. Zwettler: This came up after some issues that came up within the Election Commission in years past. We want to make sure our elections are as fair as they can be, so we would like to remove the Executive Cabinet from the appointment of the Election Commission and into the hands of the Student Court, who should be better situated to handle these things as an impartial body. We would also task them to update the website and release the election numbers after elections.

Ericson: Where would that information be posted?

Zwettler: On the Election Commission page of the Student Association website, but that can be decided by the Student Court. I would like it to be as public as possible in regards to election info. It is in our best interests to be as accessible as possible.

Sperling: Does the Judicial Branch just mean just the Supreme Court?

Zwettler: Our Judicial Branch consists of our Student Court Justices that we just swore in; that's the branch in its entirety.

Schweiner: Chief of Staff should be Director of Staff.

Zwettler: I think that would be its own resolution. We amended the bylaws to state the name change, but it has not been done in the Constitution yet.

Cayo: Point of information to all new senators that to make a



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---

Constitutional Amendment will require the change to come up as a referendum at our next election, during which the student body will vote to approve or deny the change.

Fitzgerald: Move to end discussion.

Peters: Second.

## XII. Discussion

### a. Senate Retreat

- i. Cayo: Usually we have a full couple of hours in a retreat where we go through all the training. We have had trouble with scheduling conflicts where a lot of you can't make it. We have a couple of proposed ideas. We could either do what we did last week where we do a crash course during meetings, or we could pull you aside in small groups throughout the coming weeks, or we could keep looking for a retreat date.

Fleegal: I am in favor of doing a crash course during. I feel like if we keep searching at a time, we're never going to find a date for everyone to come.

Fitzgerald: I think we should do small groups because we haven't had a presentation yet and we haven't had any guest speakers, and those take some time. The schedule gets busier. I also like the idea of small groups so we can get to know each other.

Cayo: One of the drawbacks of not having a full retreat is the lack of networking space for senators.

Estrella: Is there a way we could do small groups and pick sessions we are available for instead of doing groups organized by colleges?

Cayo: I could make a Doodle poll and give you a few dates.

Hose: I want to do a full senate retreat. I feel like there is a lot to come with how to be a senator, and this is a big enough responsibility where we can pick a Saturday and try to take off work.





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---

Lochner: I would like to point out if we do end up doing the full senate retreat, we need a two weeks notice so we can take off work and other commitments.

Hose: We could do very time-sensitive things before meetings or focus on the really important things we need to know for senate meetings, but still plan a retreat as a networking opportunity.

Ericson: As much as I would love to do a senate retreat, if you are in Athletics or Sports Clubs it will be difficult to work around. Taking some time for the next couple of meetings would be great.

Byrne: You will get to see each other and network in committees.

Carroll: Are all the committees filled out and do we know who is where?

Cayo: They are not full. We do not have a full senate yet, but hopefully we will after fall elections.

McCreavy: Based on what I am hearing from folks, we should do a more immediate crash course and have a later date for a get-to-know-you refresher thing. Even if not everyone can come, everyone will still have access to that information.

Cayo: The training is non-negotiable and will happen either way. If we want to do a retreat social, and then do small groups or something else for training, we can do that. At this point, it would be difficult to give anyone a two weeks notice for work.

Woodmansee: Let's start planning these crash courses. What do you want to know so we can figure out what to plan first?

Stewart: Verbage.

Johnston: How to write resolutions, verbage, and proper resolution structure.



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Sperling: The extent of what you can write a resolution about.

Hose: What type of protocol comes with office hours? And if constituents come to use with very time-sensitive material and we cannot answer it, what can we do?

Cayo: If it is time-sensitive, the Executive Cabinet can help you. What else is confusing? Do you know what your powers as a senator are? Do you know what you can do as a senator, how the campus works, if you have a question about different things who should you talk to?

Carroll: Questions about what a senator does.

Fitzgerald: The amount of change the Student Senate can do.

Stewart: What it means to sponsor the resolutions.

Cayo: I can answer that right now. Every resolution needs two sponsors or we cannot talk about it and it dies on the table. Sponsorship does not necessarily equate to endorsement, it just means that it can be brought to the floor for discussion.

b. Renter's Education

- i. Schweiner: First of all our Off-Campus Housing Fair is October 7th from 11-2 on the Union Lawn, and if it rains it will be held in the Bluffs. We were wondering what students got to see for housing education. We will have some housing specialists coming in and Dr. Szymalak, and they have heard student issues so they are familiar with it first hand, but if there is anything else that you want to know about renter's education so we can make it directly available to students at the housing fair, this is the space for that.

Cayo: If you aren't renting yet, what do you want to know? If you are renting, what do you wish you had known?

McReavy: I recently started renting this year on very short notice and there was a lot of confusion about what issues are our responsibility and what we needed help with, and if they



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are not doing their job who can we seek help from?

Sperling: Subleasing, how important it is to fix a maintenance request on time, and how many things a landlord can excuse before they take away a security deposit.

Henk: A lot of people don't know the correct way to be treated by the landlord. You do have rights as a tenant.

Hose: Renter's insurance, sample leases, and how to read your lease.

Fleegal: Lease transparency and red flags in a lease.

Navoichick: Make sure to take pictures of everything when you move in and move out as proof for your landlord.

Cayo: I agree. Your landlord can and will lie, so take photos.

Byrne: It would be helpful to know how to navigate finding and dealing with roommates and what to do if there are any financial arguments, especially where rooms are of different sizes.

Sperling: What to know when signing a lease.

Cayo: How to negotiate your lease.

Schweiner: How well do the people in this room know about our resources. We have a university lawyer, housing website. There is a form to fill out if you need anything from the university lawyer; I think it is a Google Form.

## XIII. Announcements

- a. McReavy: I would like to celebrate that the blue baby has been found.

## XIV. Adjournment

- a. 8:02p