



# 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: October 13th, 2021

Time and Location: 6:00 pm, Virtual via Zoom

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:10 PM
- II. Roll Call
  - a. *Students are directed to drop their names in the chat.*
- III. Approval of Agenda
  - a. Fitzgerald: I would like to motion to add a resolution supporting early registration.
  - b. Wember: Motion to remove the Sorority and Fraternity resolution.
  - c. Fleegal: Motion to add a discussion point about expanding student access to legal services.
  - d. Sperling: Motion to add a discussion point about the UWL search and screen for Chief Information Officer.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
  - a. *Minutes pass unanimously*
- V. General Student Body Open Forum
  - a. None
- VI. Guest Speakers
  - a. *None*
- VII. Officer Reports
  - a. **President: Jared Zwettler**
    - i. Zwettler: My report is short this week. I had a meeting with JPB today. We mainly talked about enrollment numbers and total compensation. If you have any questions, I'd be happy to try to answer them.
  - b. **Vice President: K.C. Cayo**
    - i. Cayo: If you don't have access to the Cove offices, please let me know. Please send me your bios for the website, as the campus photographer will be coming to our next meeting for headshots. Additionally, Jeff Keenan is interested in having a couple of Student Association representatives come to the E-Sports space tomorrow, Thursday, at 1pm. Folks from E-Sports Club will also be there. He would like the student government to be in attendance, so if anyone is interested and available, please drop your name in the chat so I can get you all the meeting information.
  - c. **Director of Staff: Olivia Woodmansee**
    - i. Woodmansee: *Provided presentation on Shared Governance and Resources*
  - d. **State Affairs Director: Sydney Navoichick**
    - i. Navoichick: Legislative Affairs will be meeting tomorrow.
  - e. **Local Affairs Director: Amy Schweiner**
    - i. Schweiner: I am looking into implementing a campus taxi service. Our segregated fees goes toward the free bus passes for students.



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So we could possibly reroute that money to a shuttle that operates like a free uber service for students. I can put together some data and then we will have more information so we can increase ridership. We are thinking about having theme weeks for the MTU, where we could get people going out into the community like a scavenger hunt, or maybe do some giveaways or coupons where if they take a bus somewhere and take a picture and send it to us or fill out a survey, then they could get a prize. One week could be a Black-owned business theme and the next could be a sustainable business theme so that we're integrating multiple features to it. I also have a graphic I will share with you all after the meeting.

**f. Inclusivity Director: Paige Vang**

- i. Vang: The MSO leadership camping trip went well. I met with Tara Nelson, the new Director for the Center for Transformative Justice, and she asked me to tell you all that her office is an open space, so feel free to go in and do your homework there. This week was our first AIDAC meeting and next week I'll be getting some training. I also set up a meeting with Jenna Ives from Advancements who helped with crowdfunding for the Women of Color scholarship last year. I am meeting with Barbara Stewart and Dina Zavala again, so if you have anything you would like me to pass along to them, please let me know.

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

- i. Henk: S'mores with senators is next Monday and I will have an Outlook invite out to you all soon.

**h. Sustainability Director: Sophie Byrne**

- i. Byrne: I'm working on a couple different projects. We have Joe Gow coming to this week's JCES meeting at 11 AM on Friday. The Green Fund committee will be meeting soon either next week or the one after that; at this point I think we will be meeting biweekly. Please respond to the poll I sent out about scheduling. Don't forget there are menstrual products in the pantry. The E-waste project will be starting up on October 19<sup>th</sup> so then you can recycle chronic waste, including batteries.

**VIII. Advisor Reports**

- a. Burke: I would like to thank Director Schweiner for the Off-Campus Housing Fair last week. Elections are coming up with applications due next Wednesday. Please go to your fellow students and ask them to run. Wellness Weekend is coming up this weekend Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. I know people mentioned they still have exams, but nobody got in touch with me, so please reach out to me if you still have anything assigned. Wellness Weekend will have s'mores, the theatre department has a show, music concerts, etc.

**IX. Committee Reports**

- a. None

**X. Organizational Reports**



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- a. McReavy: The Pride Center had a speaker for Indigenous Peoples’ Day and also for National Coming Out Day on Monday the 11<sup>th</sup>, and the attendance was almost 100 people at a virtual event. We still have our Pronoun Crash Course coming up on October 15<sup>th</sup> in the Student Union at noon. This would be a great resource for yourself, for your constituents, and for anyone who is interested in learning more about pronouns. In the spirit of mental health week, the Pride Center is open, and will be open Monday as well, if you need a place to seek support or hang out.
- b. Ericson: JCES is having a meeting on Friday. Chancellor Gow is coming and we are going to talk about strategic planning, divestment, bikes, and the possibility of a Sustainability Coordinator. Email me if you have any questions or want to come.

## XI. Unfinished Business

- a. Resolution Supporting the Reinstatement of Condiment Dispensers
  - i. McReavy: At this point this resolution is to celebrate that the condiment dispensers are back and peace has once again been restored to our campus.

Fitzgerald: Call to question.

*Resolution passes unanimously.*

## XII. New Business

- a. **Resolution in Support of Early Registration**
  - i. Fitzgerald: Before I get into the details, I wanted to go over some background information about early registration at UW La Crosse. I did send you this information, but I'm going to reiterate it. UWL does offer early registration already, and there are two different types. The first one is first day priority and then the second type is head of class which is within grade brackets. and the grades are determined by credit hours. The people in that are all the ACCESS interment students, military service members who must apply for it, and vanguards, and this is also where I can see athletes fitting in so. I got this particular set of information from the Registrar, and I have similar information about the WIAC. The WIAC is the Athletic Conference, so the D3 athletic conference within the UW System and the most essential part of the document that I want to do look at is that within the WIAC, we are the only school that doesn't offer some type of early registration for student athletes and we're one of two schools within the UW System that doesn't offer it. UW Superior is in the process of getting it for student athletes just as we are, but I shared some data in that supporting document basically showing the percentages of student athletes within each student body, so I compared it each WIAC school and showed that we only have 6% of the population as student athletes and we're on the lower end within the WIAC, and all these other schools have had implemented for years. I've been in contact with



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multiple registrars from these other schools with this platform, and Stout has had it since 2007 and they have not experienced issues with it. The rest of the student body is not being negatively impacted by allowing athletes to register early within their brain bracket. Only one school, Oshkosh, lets them do first a priority which I'm surprised by because I could see that having an impact, but they have such a small percentage which is shown on the screen it's 4%. But, overall, we have a similar stat and all these other schools have done it and it's a known precedent within the UW System that schools model policies after each other so in general, if a policy has been set it's safe to assume that other schools are going to do the same it's just a matter of time of getting there. So, the next bit of data is a breakdown of the student athletes at UW La Crosse within each grade. It's not crucial, but I just wanted to show that these aren't huge numbers of athletes and I do have data on majors to I didn't include it, but basically. We're not going to be taking up all these classes at once right like. People have different majors, we don't have a significant amount, it's 8% of each class, not even including freshmen, so 8% of juniors are going to be able to schedule it. I also want to clear up some misconceptions that there are about athletics. UWL is an NC double a D3 school, meaning athletes cannot receive any financial aid or external benefits because of athletics, so we do not get any scholarships, and we actually have very little from the school in terms of benefits. Every athlete has to pay to play, so there's a base fee of \$205 each year, a participation fee, and this is just the beginning, so we have to pay for almost all our own gear. We have to fundraise and pay for our own spring break trips, and this is a required part of your sport. Softball, for example, has to pay almost \$2000 on top of everything else just to be involved in their sport. Additionally, D3 athletes have the schedule and expectations of D1 and D2 athletes, but we don't have the support from our school that those people receive. Athletes are extremely busy, we have a predetermined full schedule that we have no control over. As a basketball player, I have weights, I have conditioning, I have scrimmaging that's already being preset, and I cannot change any of those practice times. I have to work my academic schedule around that. We come to a point where we are forced to choose between school and athletics and that's what I'm trying to help alleviate that. I brought this up last year in Senate because I had a hard time scheduling, and there was some interest, but not a resounding need. I did look into other groups that could benefit from this. Now I have received dozens and dozens of testimonials from student athletes and coaches alike sharing why we need early registration. There are students who are struggling financially because they didn't have time to schedule their classes without



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interrupting their practice time, or they could not get into their core classes, so they take summer classes which are more expensive. We have athletes who are unable to go to physical therapy and treatment, because they have class where they have to choose “Do I be late to practice when I’m already running late and get treatment or do I just skip that and go to practice?” There’s testimony from a swimmer who doesn’t have enough time to eat more than one or two meals a day because her schedule is too busy. There are so many examples of why athletes need this. Early registration is a solution to allow athletes to not have to choose between academics and athletics, it’s easy to implement, and there’s already precedent set in our conference and the UW System, and it will benefit athletes.

Sperling: The concern is that it’s already hard for freshman and sophomores to get into prerequisite classes, they need a ton of gen ed’s and they fill up very quickly. I’m concerned that favoring student athletes might make it more difficult to get into classes.

Estrella: Is there truly not a concentrated major that all athletes are in? I don’t want to negatively affect non-athletes. How would you determine who is an athlete?

Fitzgerald: The major breakdown is that there are about 550 student athletes and that’s 6% of the population of UWL. There is a trend of athletes in STEM, which is why it’s even more important that they have early registration, because there are specific classes that they need. Early registration has not been shown to impact other students.

Weber: My roommate has been trying to get into one of her prerequisite classes for three semesters. You’ve said that it doesn’t affect people significantly, but it concerns non student athletes. What if our people who aren’t student athletes have to stay an extra year or two here because they can’t sign up for classes?

McReavy: I have complicated feelings about this. I think the fact that every other UW System school has this is very telling. I think there are going to be a lot of students who aren’t involved in athletics who will call into question that they work a lot, and that they can’t sign up for their classes. There’s a lot of students that will be upset with this.

Johnston: What about the freshman who use early registration and then quit their sport?



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Fitzgerald: That is something I have spoken to the Registrar about. There are a lot of complaints and I complained about it in my freshman year, but it's not as much of a pressing concern as classes that are held once a year and are required for your major, so this is aimed at upperclassmen. People aren't going to try out and pay \$200 just for early registration.

Hose: I think there would be backlash. Since this is a D3 there is a want to play, but not a need. In ESS majors this would be seen as favoritism since there are a lot of athletes in that major. UWL does not have enough teachers and I think that's why it may be hard for students to get into classes.

Sperling: Could we tailor this resolution to upperclassman? Or is there a possibility to open it up to specific majors and classes?

Fitzgerald: The data shows it's mainly juniors and seniors, and though it may seem like a lot of athletes, it really is not. It's about 1 or 2 seats per class. Specific majors are harder to do for the Registrar.

Sperling: Can you explain why?

Fitzgerald: I talked with people from other WIAC schools and we generally use the same system. UW River Falls just passed this last summer so the Registrar there has a lot of experience with what we're going through right now. It's easy to select all and it took about five minutes to change it in their WINGS equivalent, whereas when you go in and segment the bracket where there's 60+ brackets versus all.

Woodmansee: I serve as a vanguard and they already get this. There's a group on campus that already gets this. When we first make this change there may be some confusion from the general student body, but I do believe that most students will not be engaged in this topic because they're not engaged in this capacity in terms of registration. Also, after a year this will just be natural, like it was at all the other UW institutions, and it's not something that will raise concern from the general student body. It's not like we publicly promote who gets priority registration and who doesn't, it's just a small group of students and when I say small, I mean 6% of the population. We have more multicultural students on campus than we do athletes that this policy would affect, to put this into perspective. It's true that we don't have faculty and that's why there are fewer classes. Funding is something that the UW System works for. Other campuses don't have any money either,



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specifically they have fewer class sections, but they already have this initiative in these places with less resources. Keep in mind that this is only 6% of students and it would make a larger difference to them than it would for the 94% of other students. It's 500 students disseminating across the entire UWL campus, across all academic departments, across all classes.

Estrella: I'm concerned about the centering of 6% not being that small, because out of 10,000 it's a larger number.

Lochner: Vanguards already get this and nobody accuses them of favoritism. They are an optional organization just like sports.

McReavy: I think it's easy to say that it's just two extra people that don't get seats, but it doesn't matter how many people get that chance. There's a difference between the data and the impact. If we are passing something on the basis that people won't know that we gave them access to it, seems wrong. The Education department could also use something like this.

Fitzgerald: I am the student rep on CAPS, which deals with academic policy. Education really could use something like this. There's a significant number of student athletes that are education majors and they usually can't play their third or fourth year because the requirements are so strict. However, I don't think that just because one group cannot benefit doesn't mean that this should not get passed.

McReavy: I wanted to clarify that I do not necessarily think that major should get early enrollment, but the process for if you are a junior or senior in that department, the process for enrolling is different. If we pass this and student athletes get priority enrollment, they get waitlisted and they individually go through and assign people to classes outside of the WING system. For student teaching, we are not allowed to be in athletics because it's a 40-hour full time commitment. For student athletes, this won't apply to them because it's not possible.

Woodmansee: Point of information, in proper parliamentary procedure protocol you are not allowed to yield to an individual more than once during your speaking term.

Fleegal: I think there is precedent for this resolution. I know that everyone has experienced issues with registration. If we could allow student athletes to take a class at a specific time, this could be analogous to vanguards.



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Hose: I don't think comparing vanguards to athletes is the same. There is a big gap in numbers.

Weber: A lot of student athletes are in STEM, and labs are typically about twelve kids. That would make a huge difference if you were one of the one or two students not to be in it.

Schweiner: I am in support of this. I see the time commitment that comes with being in a sport. I think that the only thing that would worry me is ESS majors.

Ericson: If you didn't have a chance to look at the supporting documents, you probably should. Once you get into those higher classes, other schools did not have issues.

Fitzgerald: This is a great recruiting tool for students who are athletic and academically minded. With the understanding that enrollment is down, this is really important. I motion to end discussion.

Stewart: Second.

## XIII. Discussion

### a. UW System Presidential Search

- i. Woodmansee: I am on the UW System Presidential Search and Screen Selection Committee. We have been traveling over the last few weeks to visit all other campuses for listening sessions. I wanted to come to this group to see if there's any feedback or any questions that you have about the Presidential Search and Screen process. The UW System President essentially oversees all the campuses and helps make programs that benefit all campuses and the UW System, so they work very closely with the Chancellors in their roles and work closely with the Vice Chancellors in our institutions.

Ericson: I would like the next president to care about sustainability. As we move into the next twenty years, it's critical that we move to net zero emissions in Wisconsin.

Woodmansee: Our candidates come from all different backgrounds and sometimes the president can't always implement direct changes, like if we want WI to be climate neutral or if we want UWL to be able to get a Sustainability Coordinator, that's not something that comes from the president's office. Are there any questions that we should ask in the finalist's selection that would





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help us know that they have any commitment to sustainability?

Ericson: I think one thing is creating some sort of policy on procurement, because a lot of the things you buy have carbon emissions affiliated with them, so selecting items that are lower carbon options compared to others, and I think that can stem from a System policy.

McReavy: I think emphasizing that students want somebody who is actually committed to making real environmental change, like divestment and fossil fuels.

Sperling: I would like them to place a high emphasis on sustainable transportation and infrastructure.

Cayo: One question by Senator Xiong that was dropped in the chat is “Do you commit to a strategic plan for UW System to divest from fossil fuels by 20-something”.

Woodmansee: Since this is an interview, we are not asking them to commit to things. Divesting from fossil fuels isn’t something that the UW System President has the ability to do, divestment comes in the form of our foundations, which are separate entities from the System. They’re connected but they’re not. Do we expect this president to have higher education experience? This is something that has come up in all of our listening sessions and we have received a range of responses.

Sperling: I would like to see somebody that has some sort of education experience.

McReavy: They should 100% have higher educational experience. I don’t think somebody who has never worked in the field of higher Ed is qualified to work in this high of a position. The UW System and higher education is its own thing that is separate from your average nonprofit or business.

Cayo: There are two proposed questions in the chat. “Should you receive this position, what steps would you implement to advocate for diversity and inclusion on campuses?” and then, as a follow-up, “How would you hold others accountable to uphold these values and actions?” Does anyone else have questions or ideas?

b. Expanding Student Access to Legal Services

- i. Schweiner: We have free legal services provided to students at UWL, and we only pay for an hour and a half of his availability per week. I am wondering if anyone has experience with our



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campus lawyer or knows anyone else who has, or have you tried to schedule an appointment and gotten turned away because there's no availability. I want to see if there's a need to hire a second attorney or pay for more hours.

Stewart: I did not know that we had a lawyer for the students to use until becoming a senator. I think we should make that more well known.

Cayo: As someone who has tried to schedule with him before, he's hard to get a hold of. He has a fulltime job that isn't being a lawyer for students. Additionally, he is someone that the Student Association pays for.

Sperling: I think that a lot of people don't know when they need a lawyer. A lot of the time that when people get wronged, they don't know that they have access to or need a lawyer. I think it would be best to have a second voice to reach out to.

Schweiner: We also offer five hours over the summer that we pay Mark for. Has anyone ever utilized the summer hours, or should we allocate them to the school year?

Johnston: I think reallocating those summer hours for the actual school year would be good. I didn't know we had a campus lawyer until I joined Senate, so until the beginning of the semester I think even fewer people would use him because people don't know we have one. I think it would be more beneficial to use him during the school year.

Schweiner: One thing to keep in mind is that as far as security deposits go, that could be during the summer. I think that's a big thing people go to him for if they don't receive their deposits back. If we're interested in doing an information campaign to make more people aware of him.

Cayo: There is no documentation to see how frequently he gets used in a year. I think that would be super helpful information to have in guiding this conversation in the future.

c. UWL Search & Screen: Chief Information Officer

- i. Sperling: I am on the committee for the hiring of a new Chief Information Officer. That person would be involved with a lot of technology at UWL. We are currently interviewing candidates right now. Students don't talk about information and technology and all that that much. If there is anything that people have concerns about, or anything you'd like me to factor in on the final



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decision, let me know.

McReavy: Speaking as the Pride Center Senator, the ability to have your pronouns presented on forms and with data collection is important. It's important that people are able to be represented how they want to be.

Cayo: I know as a freshman I had trouble with knowing who I contact for what--is it ITS or is it in the Eagle Help Desk? Are they the same? Are they different? Do they overlap? I think it's important that we make sure that this person can make these processes easier for students.

#### XIV. Announcements

- a. Woodmansee: I'm starting a personal campaign called Ditch the Dash. For those of you who know it's UWL not UW-L. It's something that Martin Walston announced, and I will personally be pursuing it.
- b. Ericson: JCES is this Friday at 11 am.
- c. Byrne: I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Nic Peterson. The passing of a student is not something that should ever be taken lightly, especially when it was of this nature, and I think we should take a moment to acknowledge what happened and make space for that.

#### XV. Adjournment

- a. 7:20p