



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **February 24, 2016**

Time and Location: **6:00pm Port O' Call; Cartwright Center**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - i. Steck/Garcia
 - b. Approval of minutes
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Representative Jill Billings
 - i. Billings: In the assembly, we just discussed Walker's College Affordability package. As a member of the Colleges & Universities Committee, I had particular interest in this. This past week we've had more than 200 bills in front of us. The package was sent through, amendments were brought forward but not accepted, sadly. The first portion of the package was a tax break for students with large student debt, probably dental, med, or grad school students; that affected less than 32,000 people, when there are more than 1 million people in WI with student debt. The second part was money going toward work force and tech schools to increase internship and work force opportunities. Amendments were attempted as well, but shut down. Third part was money for 2-year schools, attempted amendment to expand to 4-year schools as well, also shot down. I attempted an amendment that would require loan statements to be sent out regularly to students, so that they could keep track of their debt; also denied. The package passed assembly and is now on it's way into the Senate. Senator Fitzgerald's office said he thinks the price tag is too high on the package and plans to water it down even more. Senate meets March 15th. Sexual Assault Amnesty bill has passed Senate, and hasn't hit the Assembly yet (?). Currently, in Wisconsin a child can be arrested for being a part of human trafficking, and there was a hearing in the Assembly to prevent them from being arrested if they were to be caught up in this; more legislation is being worked on for that now too.
 1. McLoughlin: How much money is it going to cost for the Financial Statement Requirement aspect of the package?
 - a. Billings: I'm not sure if a price was stated. I can get that information for you.
 2. McLoughlin: Regarding amnesty for drinking, I was wondering about other crimes outside of that and Sexual Assault. Are there other categories for amnesty?
 - a. Billings: Not that I know of. This is the first attempt at this. Rep. Halsey was a big pusher of this piece of legislation. Law enforcement side asking for amendment that would apply in the case that the "reporter" of the incident shouldn't be granted amnesty for the reason that they actually need help because of an

addiction or abuse problem.

3. Mason: What was the motivation behind bailing out those loan statements of students?
 - a. Billings: Students testify that there is an “agree” button under student loans, and a lot of us that it’s too easy to do. The feeling was questioning if it brings enough attention to the commitment at hand. The idea is to bring to students’ attention where they’re at, transparently, in an easily accessible place.
4. Steck: Regarding unpaid internships, we had a really good depth discussion last week with Joe Gow. Here at UWL, some degrees require internships, and the ones that are taken in the summer have to be paid for like a regular summer class credit. I understand the concept of paying \$2500, but I’m not sure I understand the capacity of paying that rate for what’s involved.
 - a. Billings: I do think a lot of work needs to be done on internships and their necessity and contribution to paying for school. I want to do more.
- ii. I just want to say I’m very appreciative of all the students in my district and I’m so happy I am able to come in and talk to them.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum

VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Kaylee Otterbacher

- i. We need more of you to attend food tastings for new Student Center! Operation RiverWatch is looking for volunteers, also. Passed resolutions from last week were passed onto Madison. Amnesty bill had already passed assembly, but will keep up to date on Senate. Larry looking for students for Design Committee for new Student Center! SRD training opportunity tomorrow. We do need more people. Training takes right around 2 hours. 11-1pm Cartwright tables as voter registration. Shared governance statement being worked on by university. We have small paragraph included (See document); any feedback?

1. Public: Have you sent emails to student orgs to see if they wanted to help conduct registration?

- a. Otterbacher: Not yet, just Student Association and those who randomly approached us.

b. Vice President: Molly Davies

- i. Make sure everyone has Senate Office access & binders! 11am-2pm March 10th Slices w/ the Senators in this room.

c. Chief of Staff: John Becker

- i. Held our cabinet meeting today and updates on some projects: voter registration process (getting laptops to register online), Slices With the Senators.

d. State Affairs Coordinator: Jacob Schimmel

- i. Need help GOTV in the next few days to increase turn out! We really want to show that our student body beats the normally low turnout for our demographic.

1. Public: How will you make it accessible for out-of-state students to get an id?

- a. Schimmel: Online-voting registration. Also state IDs accessible here in Cartwright. Guidelines are complicating, so we’re going to do our best to break things down in a clear and concise manner. Making people aware will really help.

- b. Otterbacher: To register & vote students need proof of residency document. There will be a very easy-to-read email with a

document that will get sent out, that will be exactly what you need to register just by simply showing your phone.

- e. Local Affairs Coordinator: Brady Gross
 - i. Emailed Sue Lynch regarding pedestrian crosswalk at East Ave and Farwell: they're sending out survey to citizens and students to receive feedback. Matt from DOT says it is already pedestrian-friendly, so currently he is not recommending any speed changes or crosswalk additions to be done to East Ave. Pedestrian signs could be an option. Feedback?
 - 1. Brever: I think a flashing pedestrian sign would be effective.
- f. Inclusivity Coordinator: Ayush Shrestha

VIII. RHAC Reports

- a. Dr. Nick came in and spoke in our meeting with updates on the idea of a new student residence hall and the remaining money from that to go into updating old residence halls.

IX. Advisor Reports

X. Committee Reports

- a. Purath: UWS policy-setting task force and I just wanted to let you know I brought up the concern for internships, and so that will be talked about!
- b. Steck: JMAC had their first listening session and it was awesome with a full room! A lot of voices and ideas were heard and thrown around. 2-3 more this semester, and we're excited to hear more at those meetings.
 - i. Public: Are there requirements for all of you to attend events like these?
 - 1. Davies: In our bylaws, under rules & responsibilities, there is not anything that *requires* it, although we do encourage it, as well as we hold Inclusivity Training.
 - ii. Public: If you say you encourage it and think you don't do enough, then why isn't there a pledge to do more from all of you?
 - 1. Davies: I resent that. I believe we are doing better than previous year's senates by holding multiple inclusivity training, whereas in previous years there were no attempts made. We are working on trying to make everyone in this room feel included and comfortable in this environment.
 - iii. Public: it's great that you feel comfortable, but you are here to represent your constituents and make *them* feel comfortable, and so I don't see why you're not going to student orgs to get that outreach.
 - 1. Davies: We have mandatory outreach for our senators every 2 weeks, so with that it's up to the senators which events to go to, or to those meetings.
- c. Ames: SUFAC meeting on Racquet financials next week.
- d. Garcia: SSB talked about policies regarding the new student center on alcohol policy and the restrictions that would be put in place. A representative from the music department will be at the meeting next week to recommend someone for piano tuning. We also discussed updates on the rec area, signage, making the building wheel chair friendly. Look forward to resolutions next week on the rec!
- e. Brever: Joint Sexual Violence Activation committee: we had our first meeting so let me know if you want to be involved.
- f. Schimmel: Legislative Affairs meets this Friday at 2:30pm.

XI. Organizational Reports

- a. Patnode: Pride Center having annual Drag Show Apr 1st, \$5 for students. We haven't decided where money is going or theme, but it will be toward a good cause.
- b. Sorority life: Mr. Heartthrob at 7pm \$5 tickets

XII. Unfinished Business

- a. SA1516-041: Resolution Addressing Governor Walker's College Affordability Proposals

- i. *Schimmel: Addressing proposals part of college affordability package. Recommending legislation do a lot more to create more of a voice with general opposition, and asking for more efforts made.*
 - ii. Steck: I fully support this resolution. With my own research, I've realized the proposals are indeed very small and technical colleges will be getting such small amounts that it won't even address the issue that students are facing. We really do need to ask for more as student representatives.
 - iii. Purath: Although it's small, I think it's a step in the right direction and we shouldn't be shutting it down even though it generally helps.
 - iv. Mans: I also agree that this is going in the right direction, and that though it is small it does help those schools, even if it doesn't give much on our end.
 - v. Rudolph: I think this resolution here does a good job at saying this is good for tech schools, but not good enough for us. The package is something done politically by governor, to say that he's doing something for college affordability, and isn't doing what it should to make up for the \$250 million cut. This package is giving us crumbs, and they want to water it down even more, and this is great at saying that.
 - vi. Bennett: I would like to say that in these seats we are representing a 4-year school and not a tech school and that we cannot say it is headed for the right direction because we do not know that.
 - vii. Quaschnick: I just want to say that the tax portion doesn't apply to undergrad students at all, but to grad and med school students. The first line does help some UW students, but helps almost no tech students. It does help somebody, but in the grand scheme of things, it helps a very small number, and it seems like those numbers will be cut even more. I do agree with the previous senator that we shouldn't be advocating for students who aren't under our representation.
 - viii. Voted on; 1 abstention. Passes.
- b. SA1516-042: Resolution Changing Executive Candidate Debate Date for 2016 Spring Student Association Election
 - i. *Otterbacher: Looking to move it to Monday so it is not on the same day as Primary.*
 - ii. Voted on; passes.

XIII. New Business

- a. SA1516-044: Resolution Appointing Spring 2016 Election Commission
 - i. *Otterbacher: Appointed by student court; contains half of your exec cabinet & Senator Purath.*
 - ii. Rudolph: Weren't their more requirements? Does this address those requirements?
 - 1. *Otterbacher: There wasn't enough interest for those requirements to be met, rather bodies needed in those positions.*

XIV. Discussion

XV. Announcements

XVI. Adjournment

STUDENT SENATE ATTENDANCE 02/24/15

Last	First	Roll Call
Almazrou	Yousef	
Ames	Jeremy	
Anderson	Allison	x
Banker	Blaine	
Bennett	James	x
Bentdahl	Madison	
Bhatoya	Aaron	x
Brever	Patrick	
Eidenschink	Matthew	
Faust	Alexander	
Floerke	Weston	
Garcia	Spenser	
Geitzen	Max	
Given	Jori	
Gunaratnam	Alfonso	
Gustafson (gustifsin)	Allison	
Hackett	Kayley	
Hungness	Dana	
Humphrey-Anderson	Allison	x
Mason	Lauren	
Mans	Emily	
McLoughlin	William	
Nicholson	Matthew	x
Patnode	Frank (Donald)	
Pigmentel	Vania	x
Purath	Anicka	
Quaschnick	Andrew	
Rudolph	Chris	
Schultz	Thomas	x
Sparks	Jacob	x
Steck	Rebecca	
Tashner	Brittany	
Tatum	Jasmin	x
Weyker	Ryan	
Yang	Gaozie Vang	x