



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **September 9th, 2015**

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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - a. All present except Koop, Mans, Hayward and Humphrey-Anderson
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - b. Approval of minutes
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Dr. Dr. Knudson Knudson: I wanted to give a few updates for the new year and some info about Student Affairs. Student Affairs describes non-academic activities on campus. On our campus the Division of Student Affairs covers a lot of the out of classroom experience, such as University Centers and Dining, Residence Life, Student Health, Campus Recreation and Athletics and the Student Life office. Remember there are two Dr. Knudson Knudson's on campus, I am KnuDson and she is Dr. Knudson KnuTson. If you reach out to me you can have a free cup of coffee and a walk around campus. Think back to your first day here at UW-L, how did you feel? Overwhelmed, needle in a haystack.. etc.
 - i. Dr. Knudson: as many of you know, we had to make some significant budget cuts to our school last spring. Luckily, we got back together in August and got some of that money back. A lot of people on this campus are getting hit with health insurance problems and we have a lot of people on this campus that already have low salaries and will get another set of budget cuts. So one thing that we did was adjust some of the lowest wages on campus to a living wage. The other thing that we did was hand about \$64,000 back to Student Leadership to decide what to do with that money that gets to go back to students. Want to figure out a way to work with you (after talking with the people that you're representing) to see how we might figure out the best way to best spend that money.
 - ii. Dr. Knudson: [explaining the different types of revenue that we receive] We have our 102 fund, which is the state dollars that we receive, the largest income source on campus and the part that was cut the most on campus. The other funding source is program revenue as a 128 fund, which are student segregated fees that are used for specific purposes. And then there is differential tuition that can go towards different purposes that can go along with tuition but towards a different role. One of the questions we asked was can we give this \$64,000 towards financial aid to help those in need? The answer is no, we cannot use state dollars for financial aid. Could we create things like more student employment opportunities or graduate assistance opportunities that can get more money to those who need it? Yes, that is possible. As we are

- brainstorming we will have to say no to some things but the floor is pretty wide open. We could go back to giving \$2 back to every student... do we want to do that or create something? There is also a difference here in “base funding” and “one time funding,” this is base funding and can be used year to year, not just once.
- iii. Hartwig: going back to some unpleasantness of the beginning of the year, do you know how many hate incident reports have been filed?
 1. Dr. Knudson: unsure.
 - iv. Jackson: what can we do to help out with Oktoberfest activities and the safety of students at school?
 1. Dr. Knudson: Worried that people are already overindulging in alcohol. And while Oktoberfest can be a great event, it also leads to that same overindulgence. We’ve been working on “what can we do” for the past nine years. One thing we’ve done is close down the residence halls: no guests with the exception of parents. Then we program, ensure that there are alcohol alternative options. We also make sure that staff are visible around campus and the University Police pick up numbers and partner with the La Crosse Police Department. We’ve noticed that it starts innocent in the afternoon and the trouble begins to happen later that night. You’ll find our police force out on Oktoberfest weekend ready for a lot of ticketing. We try to monitor social media ahead of time. Such as watching for t-shirts that people create that represents UW-L and excessive drinking or if we see parties that are planned, we try to intercede before that party happens. We are going to hold people accountable as much as possible.
 - v. Jackson: Title IX... what can happen with that?
 1. Dr. Knudson: there’s a lot of media going around about how we can reduce the culture of sexual assault on college campuses. There have been new interpretations of Title IX and new expectations that we have on campus. I would be happy to do an entire session on that and train on how we can help that. I don’t know if the legislation is exactly fair to colleges: we have to investigate an assault if we are aware of it. We have to. Even if the victim doesn’t want that. We want to be able to move forward and hold people accountable, but it doesn’t always feel that way if the victim doesn’t want that. That’s another idea for the \$64,000.
 - vi. Yakes: what is the deadline for the \$64,000 to decide where that money goes?
 1. Dr. Knudson: The Joint Planning and Budget committee would like a proposal on their agenda during their upcoming Wednesday meeting. No particular timeline but we would like it done in time.
 2. Yakes: how much say do students have in the \$64,000?
 3. Dr. Knudson: I think students have a huge amount to say as long as the funding follows the rules. If you’d like to engage in a broader discussion Chancellor Gow and Bob would love to have that discussion.
 - vii. Mason: where does the funding for Undergraduate Research come from,

and can that money go towards that?

1. The majority of UR comes from Academic Initiatives. I can't get a final answer on if you can add to that pool but I would believe that funding source is in alignment and could be included.
- viii. Ames: is the \$64,000 annual?
 1. Dr. Knudson: each year of the biennium. \$64,000 applied each year of the biennium - \$128,000 total every two years.
- ix. Almazrou: will Dr. Hetzel advise us soon?
 1. Dr. Knudson: he would be more than happy to come and join you.
 2. Vice President Davies: Dr. Bob and Chancellor Gow will be here next week.
- b. John Palmer: I am a new University Centers employee working with the dining service transition. Will have two committee groups that will work the second and first Monday's of each month beginning in October. Looking for feedback, want a little bit of preliminary feedback tonight for any questions or major concerns that you may have.
 - i. Mason: all food has been great. The one complaint that I've heard is not being able to customize sub in the sub shop.
 - ii. Jackson: everything for the most part has been great. Most people are confused on exactly what they can get with their meal plan, where they can go and how many swipes they can use. A general e-mail sent out to all students would be helpful that includes all of this information.
 1. John: you should see that coming out by the end of the week.
 - iii. Hartwig: no customizable eggs in the morning, and we worry that the Cellar won't be fully utilized if residence meal swipes are not able to be used. We fear that the Cellar will be mostly vacant after midterms when campus cash runs out.
 1. John: because of the Avian flu we do have a shortage of eggs, just so everyone knows. We plan on implementing customizable eggs as soon as possible when we get that normal amount of eggs in. We understand the frustration, but it is a national thing and the price of eggs has doubled recently. It's not because we don't want to provide, we are having trouble getting eggs right now.
 - iv. Yakes: looking at guest meals on campus and found that we can't use guest meals in the main Whitney dining room, would be helpful to know where we can use them.
 1. John: they can be used in Chars and the sub shop just not in the dining room just because it is all you can eat, so we worry about students not buying meal plans and just using each other's. Can use block meals and dining dollars in the Whitney Center dining room?
 - v. Jackson: employees have been very helpful.
 - vi. Hartwig: lines are always very backed up, and staff was typically not prepared to keep up with the massive amounts of students.
 - vii. John: my office located in 222 Cartwright Center please come with any comments or concerns.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum

VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Kaylee Otterbacher

- i. Involvement fest Sept. 16th from 11am-4pm, please sign up. Elaine has recently resigned from our Local Affairs Coordinator, John will be filling in for work until we fill that position. The grading scale will be moving forward this semester, Vice President Davies met with new Provost Betsy last Friday and she is interested in helping us move forward with this to the proper committees. I chatted with many faculty members and department chairs who have all been in support of the change. We will be re-starting the “It’s on Us” campaign this fall hoping to make it even more successful. Looking to do another flag football tournament and show the movie “The Hunting Ground” and many more events, please let me know if you would like to help or have any ideas. We will begin discussion on Voter ID requirements with the spring primary election and other municipal elections coming up in the spring. UW System Reps is this weekend, please let me know if there is anything you would like me to discuss.
- b. Vice President: Vice President Davies
 - i. President Pro Tempore election next week, inter-Senate election. The Pro-Temp sits in for myself when I need to step out of the room or miss a meeting. If that’s something you’re interested in think about that this week we will be voting next week. Larry and I will be meeting this Friday to get committees up and running. Be looking for an e-mail to set up a time. Look at your personal page on our website. Look for an e-mail from me asking for a bio to put on your page and your office hours, so that you constituents can know a little bit about you. Office hours will not be done the same way as lasts year. There won’t be a sign in sheet, I won’t be keeping tabs on you so I trust you to do your hours. There will be a list of hours posted outside of the door so that we can keep each other accountable when anyone isn’t there. Please keep the office clean. Things happen but please do let us know.
 - 1. Hartwig: how many office hours?
 - a. Vice President Davies: one per week.
- c. Chief of Staff: John Becker:
 - i. I will be filling in for Local Affairs Coordinator. Oktoberfest may be a concern. I was Local Affairs Director last year, so I know that Rectoberfest is a great alternative to Oktoberfest drinking and a good place to go if you don’t want to me among the chaos – I encourage you to spread that around the residence halls. Door hangers – if you help spread those door hangers, hopefully you can stop the chance that someone flips your car. A good opportunity also is Operation River Watch that actually goes on all year long but is looking for more volunteers around Oktoberfest. You can sign up for a one or two hour slot, is great for anything that requires volunteer hours. Last year the Police Department got around 1,300 phone calls, so they are really busy during Oktoberfest. Over the last three years the number of undercover cops has quadrupled, so they are doing more and more to keep our neighborhood safe.
 - ii. John: The neighborhood association, known as the Grandview Emerson Neighborhood Association (GENA) gets together about once a month really wants students to get involved. The neighborhood across West Ave, called Goosetown, is also looking for participants because they typically don’t have any students that go to their meetings. The NRC has

set aside around \$200 for grants for the neighborhood, but no student is ever available to come and ask for funds. I can get you that info if you would like to come, and we can see what students want. I was thinking street lights between badger and vine or other ideas. Housing fair: rent college pads is looking for someone to help out as someone in a green morph suit for \$12/hours. All you have to do is spin a sign for \$36 for three hours.

- d. Chief of Staff to the Vice President: Kate Laird
 - i. Fill out the small sheets that you got when you came in. We will be taking pictures next week – quick headshots that go up on our website. It's On Us football tournament bigger and better than last year, start spreading the word now. Raise your plaque when you'd like to talk. Make sure you "yield" when you're done talking. Don't forget to Like us on Facebook.
- e. State Affairs Coordinator: Jacob Schimmel
 - i. AB272/SB194: Student loan refinancing bill. Three aspects: 1). Creating the Wisconsin Student Loan Refinancing Authority – which is a body appointed by the Governor that decides how they want to give out government loans to students in need. Students can apply and get loans based on financial situation. Income based determination. Was supposed to be created in the last budget session and was shot down but will be brought up again as its own bill. 2). Loan counseling with the WSLRA and the DFI. Supplies every student that wants a loan with the lowest interest rate and any other information. 3). Income tax subtraction, could file for the loan with the income tax subtraction. Will start with John Nygren – saying that loan counseling and the income tax subtraction could possibly be supported by the Republican Party, but not likely with the creation of the Wisconsin Student Loan Refinancing Authority. I think we should move forward with trying to promote this bill and support it, but I am not particularly optimistic – but still think we should try. Looking for a time to go to the Capitol later this semester. If worse comes to worst we can try to create a new bill that excludes the creation of the WSLRA. Would start this by going to Nygren's office, will use Jen Shilling as a resource.
 - ii. Chief Becker: is the refinancing portion for federal or private loans?
 - 1. Schimmel: federal loans.
 - iii. Schimmel: the WSLRA would have to provide information about public loans, nothing about what private loan entities are required to disclose.
- f. Local Affairs Coordinator: [absent, no report]
- g. Inclusivity Coordinator: Ayush Shrestha
 - i. My job is to make sure that every demographic feel included in Senate. I will really try and make sure that everyone has a voice here. I will be going to 2-3 different multicultural organizations each week so that I can report back here what they are doing.

VIII. RHAC Reports

- a. Exciting move in weekend, two really successful programs with our first RHAC meeting tomorrow.

IX. Advisor Reports

- a. Larry: [pep talk about how great we are and how we are the best Student Government in the State of Wisconsin and the country]. Please stop in my office whenever and talk to me, if you feel uncomfortable in meetings, etc. It's going to

- be a great year. Alex and I are going to do some training in just a minute.
- b. Alex: [while crying]: I just want to say thank you very much, it has been a privilege to work with you over the past couple of years. Today is my final day serving as the FSL/Student Association advisor. As the year begins I'm very sad to be leaving you, but I find comfort in the tremendous leadership and potential around this table. Whatever challenges may arise, the collective knowledge and critical thinking in this space is more than ready to tackle any issue that comes at you. This is an incredible opportunity to be a part of an organization like this that truly represents all students on this campus. The challenge there then is how we can outreach to all of our students. What is our role as a student leader on campus and how do you connect with students? A handshake leads to a conversation that leads to a changed mind and a changed world. Those who feel welcome in this space will feel welcome on campus. Use every moment you have to work together and with your support network on campus. And use your voice as much as possible. I would not have found my passion in life if it weren't for my involvement in Student Government at South Dakota State. Take your commitment very seriously but have a lot of fun. Take the time to enjoy time with the people that are around you. You will argue and disagree but enjoy your time with each other. My final piece is from the bottom of my heart thank you very much, and my favorite quote is, "we are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit."
- X. Committee Reports
- XI. Organizational Reports
- a. Hartwig: LGBTQIAA social this Tuesday at 5pm in Valhalla, immediately following 7pm Rainbow Unity meeting, 7pm Thursday Transform's first meeting. La Crosse Pride this weekend, events in the park with a drag show.
- b. Tatum: This Friday BSU is hosting a meet and greet at the Eagles Nest from 5-7pm.
- XII. Unfinished Business
- XIII. New Business
- a. SA1516-003 Resolution Approving Senate Appointment
Eidenschink/Almazro
- b. Vice President Davies: this Senator was at our training on Monday, but is currently working tonight. She was the only Science and Health Student that reached out to apply.
- c. Hartwig: does she meet all of the requirements to become a senator?
- i. Vice President Davies: Yes.
- d. Jackson: is she here tonight?
- i. No she isn't here, she was at training.
- XIV. Discussion
- a. Student Initiative Money
- i. Vice President Davies: \$64,000 to spend on whatever we'd like. Start with how we got to the \$64,000. We passed a resolution last spring outlining our budget priorities, couldn't bring down tuition since that was already set by the Board of Regents. Moved onto reducing the registration fee. Kaylee and I had to fight unreasonably hard for \$64,000 to go back to students. It could equate to about \$1.70 back to students on the registration fee back to students per semester.
- ii. Hartwig: I would like this money to address general neutral facilities on this campus. There are two areas for this to be done: in all of the

academic buildings. Some buildings actually don't comply with Title IX standards, a Trans student could sue the University. Also the money could be used to help the Residence Halls to put in a gender neutral floor in one of their buildings- they are currently looking at Angell hall. After we take care of some Trans issues on campus we can look at more options possibly to make our campus safer.

- iii. Vice President Davies: can this money be put into the residence halls?
 - 1. Larry: not in the residence halls, but possibly the academic buildings.
 - iv. Eidenschink: some programs from the Rec could be put back, with an hour decrease both at Cartwright Center and at the REC.
 - v. Vice President Davies: couldn't be put back directly but could reduce the chargeback.
 - vi. Brever: the Sexual Assault taskforce has recently looked into "the Companion App" who you can send a notification to someone and they can monitor your walk home. It would be free to users but there would be a charge to hook the app up to Campus Police.
 - vii. Mason: I like the companion app idea, but also are wondering what our options are for contributing to our chargeback costs?
 - 1. Vice President Davies: any SUFAC entities.
 - viii. Garcia: what exactly is GPR funded?
 - 1. Vice President Davies: Centennial things are GPR funded, academic building.
 - ix. Garcia: club sports and athletics are funded separately?
 - 1. Vice President Davies: Yes.
 - x. Purath: out of quality and fairness I would rather have money going back to the registration fee. While it is a small amount it would add back over time.
 - xi. Becker: install more blue safety lights around campus. Right now we have been strategically placing those emergency lights, but when I'm walking on campus it doesn't make sense to me why these emergency lights are right at the doors of the residence halls. If we could put more of those around campus it would be a good opportunity to keep our campus safer.
 - xii. Hartwig: We need to talk to constituents, because they may not know or they may have an idea that we could never have thought of. I'm also hearing a general consensus about safety. An idea that I currently have is a "fund" for "safety capital investments" or "investments for safety and comfort of our students" so it could be a ten year plan with this money, it could be first leveling out sidewalks, and to install the blue lights, or to implement the app.
- b. 36.09(5) Policy at UW-L
- i. Hartwig: the problem I've seen with the segregated fee implies that the Chancellor has a final say on our budget, but I would like to see some sort of a back and forth on that. S Like saying that if the Chancellor denies our budget we have to go back and look at it. More of that kind of stuff, this is how SUFAC will run with the Chancellor and other groups on campus.
 - ii. Almazro: Can we add more shared governance groups? It could be good to have more people involved in the decision making process.

XV. Announcements

- a. Steck: would like to congratulate all members involved in the ATP performance. It would be great to go and support each other at other events like this, one in October.
- b. Hartwig: Senate dinner next week Wednesday. Great time to talk and meet each other and eat good Cellar food. Reiterate social Tuesday 5pm in Valhalla, Pride in La Crosse this weekend with drag show.

XVI. Adjournment
Eidenschink/Hartwig 8:45pm.