



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: November 2nd, 2016

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:01 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - b. Motion: Olp ; Second: Tashner
 - c. Approved
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Craig Key and Nancy Gjertson
 - i. Gjertson: My name is Nancy and I'm standing in for Craig and so is Chef Rob. Thank you for letting us come in tonight. We wanted to welcome you back to UWL dining at some point this semester. This year we added a hummus line, and we were able to move it to this building instead of Whitney. This year the chefs have tried to add more things to the menu. We are currently getting ready to move to the next building. We added quesadillas this year and are having new staff in different spots. One of the most important things to us is your feedback, if you have any suggestions they are all very welcome. Chef Rob and I are more accessible this year and we are working to become more accessible as we prepare to move to the New Student Union.
 - a. Bhatoya: I don't know if you were aware that the line isn't open in Whitney at all times because of staff?
 1. Gjertson: One of the biggest challenges is getting coverage in all areas. We have a high turnover rate with our student employees. As we continue to move forward we are looking to get these places filled and utilizing the employees we have in the most efficient way. I think as we have those push times it's that we have to make sure to make things more accessible.
 - b. Bhatoya: If there are ways to incentivize working for you I think that more students, especially freshman would want to work for the dining services.
 2. Gjertson: Again, this is an ongoing issue but a lot of students that come in, this is their first job so people decide they don't want to work. We are trying to be more flexible with students and we are training our management to ensure that the turnover rate isn't as high. It's amazing when I visit other schools because they have the same issue. For the future we can look at payroll, etc, but it is useful to go to other schools and see what they are doing. It's just the process of finding a balance. If you see those



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push moments where there are a lot of people, there is a link on our website, where we get direct emails about complaints or other issues so if someone used the link to notify us that it's a busy time that would be great because we could try to get more staff there. Chef Rob is going to do some sampling to try some new things out but we will need people to try the food for us.

Thank you again for giving us a couple minutes of your time.

a. Kallis: Are you aware that some of your staff aren't aware of what ingredients are in the food?

1. Gjertson: Maybe you and me could talk about this after the meeting because we do have a dietician that updates the employees about what's in the food. Maybe just shoot me an email so I can give you more information but I need to know who the person is because the resources are there.

a. Warner: Is there any publicity that RA's could send out to encourage students to apply for these jobs through the res. Halls?

1. Gjertson: I can talk to Mary Beth and Larry about this because I think that's something we could work from that angle as well. It's just finding resources and the challenge is that all students have to apply online and that causes some problems. Are there any other questions? Again, thank you and I will send that link.

b. Rachel Ramthun

i. Hey guys, I'm Rachel, I'm a senior and the chair of SUFAC this year. I just wanted to talk a little tonight about what we are facing this year and hopefully get your help. So, right now, I don't know how much you know about this but we are facing a projected enrollment decline for the fiscal year FY18 and at the same time because of the new building projects that is the only increase that seg. fees can see for next year so that leaves us with not being able to increase that. So we are facing about \$25,000 less on the allocable side of the fees. So, what I'm here tonight about is that at SUFAC on Monday we tried to come up with some options of where this money can come from. Either we have to find funding somewhere or cut funding. If you could talk to your constituents sometime soon about ideas that would be great. The first idea we came up with was the bus service (MTU) right now, every UWL student can use this because of seg fees. There are certain times that stop every half hour, these stay regardless but we do pay for extra routes. These go later in the evening then what the original "plan" allows. So we pay extra for those but if we cut funding to that we no longer would have that just because were students. Saturdays are a little bit different and the funding on that is a little different because it's only around when school is in session. So mainly, the days that would



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be affected would be Monday through Friday. Sunday is the day that we pay for 100% through our seg. fees, so this wouldn't affect every bus route. So then the option would be to, well, I'm not sure how much we can actually do with this. In the past I have been told that MTU hasn't been keen on working with us to adjust this. This extra half hour route would be the thing that would change so please talk to your constituents about this. The next option is the safe ride, this has almost as many riders as the whole MTU does all year. If we changed the times on this we could potentially save money but again, I don't know if they will be willing to negotiate. Are there any questions on bus so far?

1. Gross: How much do we pay for the 30 minutes?

a. Ramthun: I'm not exactly sure on the exact price but I'm hoping to get a better idea soon.

ii. Ramthun: The green fund is the next thing, every semester it collects \$60,000, it is about \$6.20 per semester for seg fees. The current balance in the green fund is \$120,000 and that is accounting for this year already. The idea with this would be to possibly collect less revenue with the green fund- so changing this from \$5.20 from \$6.20 this would save about \$20,000. Even though last spring we carried over \$60,000 that was including after paying for the LED lights in the new student union for the last 4 years. So basically we will be spending less out of this fund in the future. That would leave us with about \$5,000-\$6,000 to find. So an idea to pair with this would be cutting funding to entities by about 1%. I sent out an email last week to come up with strategies of how each entity would deal with a 2-3% cut. The other idea would be focusing on entities that have large sums of money in their budget after the year which gets swept back to the SUFAC account. We could also just cut back on one shot request funding. The last option would be to encourage revenue funding resources. For example, instead of free Friday night movie, making it \$1 or other events being a small price. I think all of these ideas would be great to talk to your constituents about. So, the other option which I would like to avoid would be talking the money from all of the entities. Our music programs, club sports, multicultural, etc are all SUFAC funded organizations. If we cut all entities that would be about a 2% cut. We also have cash reserves but if we use that it's a onetime fix. This problem probably won't automatically correct itself. My goal is to find a sustainable solution for this, even if it's a onetime fix now and figuring out a solution later on. I'm sorry I threw a lot at you fast.

a. Schimmel: I would suggest to folks to look at the budget which we have in the office. I'm all for finding ways to spend the Green



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fund reserve money but I'd hope in the future there are more requests for green funding and they keep adding up. There is a maximum amount we can put in the reserves, so if we want to reduce that, we could. I'm just worried if we do too many cuts that it could really harm organizations or just students in general

1. Ramthun: One thing I forgot to mention is that MTU doesn't have statistics or a way to tell if it's UWL, Viterbo, or Western Tech students. This is why I'm encouraging you all to talk to your constituents.

b. Ames: The green fund hasn't had the opportunity to spend the money for this year yet and that's why they have such a large reserve right now. The process where they approve bigger projects haven't come up yet so they will most likely only have about \$60,000. There are limitations on what the green fund can spend the money on.

1. Ramthun: I think they can request \$47,000 per year. I would almost say to that we could extend the time period that wouldn't affect the green fund as much. I think tonight the focus is thinking about what has the most impact and what has the lease

a. Floerke: I think that we should look at this about what would help the students the most, in my opinion, I feel like the green fund doesn't affect students that much and that it's mostly just to make the campus look better.

1. Ramthun: I like your view on that, right now students pay for the bills of the new student union, so the green fund affects how much you pay

a. Arney: The green fund does help with bills though because they put new shower heads in the dorms and it saved so much water which saved so much money which directly affects how much students pay

1. Floerke: I think if we look at the overall impact of the green fund by looking at past green fund things that would be really helpful.

b. Ames: The green fund does fund important things and it did pass referendum twice at UWL and they are due for another one next year. You could always push the referendum sooner.

c. Schimmel: The green fund does have a significant purpose but it has a history of being under-utilized. There is a lot of money there but it could be utilized in better ways. I would encourage people to



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work with others and think about MTU but that is also complicated.

1. Ramthun: My biggest concern is that the reserves will run out and then we will have to make these other cuts that people don't want to make but more drastically.

d. Tahiri: Is there data that is available about how much the green fund actually saves so that we can look back on how much of an impact they actually have?

1. Ramthun: Spenser isn't here but that's a good question.

a. Ames: There are a lot of miscellaneous things that the green fund does, so while you might not have data over time, if you purchase equipment it has to have a track record of how much it actually helps

e. Elvaker: So how would this budgeting change actually take place, like how would SUFAC actually get that money?

1. Ramthun: My understanding would be that there wouldn't have to be a referendum but there may have to be a change in the Green fund bylaws. The way that their bylaws are written is that it has to remain at \$60,000, then basically it would be adjusted so that it would be adjusted for next year. It wouldn't be like writing a check but the money would just be allocated differently.

f. Bhatoya: It's in the bylaws that it can be a 4-year project, so if we were to cut that from the green fund or extend that to 5 years it could work. In the past we haven't exceeded what we are funding.

1. Ramthun: In the bylaws, there is a cap that they can fund each year that wouldn't allow them to spend more than that.

g. Arney: So to take the money from the green fund we would just change the bylaws?

1. Ramthun: Right now everyone contributes through seg. fees to the green fund so to change this we could change the bylaws to say that \$60,000 doesn't have to be in the reserves but it would look more like \$4 of \$5.20 would go to green fund and the extra dollar would go to other things.

a. Arney: I do think that the green fund is a large amount of money but it funds student creativity for sustainability and it is extremely unique to our campus so I would hate to see it diminish over time.



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h. Giles: So we could say something in the new green fund bylaws by extending bigger things but it would just take longer to get on campus so that we can take this money now but in general still be doing sustainable things. What can we take away but then increase at the same time to allow the green fund to function the way it does now.

i. Lenz: I think that increasing the free movie Fridays could be a great idea because then people might think that they are getting a deal and it could increase turnout.

a. Ramthun: That dollar increase would only affect students here right now but for the future for students who didn't know there were free movie Fridays before they would probably pay.

j. Bhatoya: We have to think about the students and I think if people found out that we cut services when we didn't have to because we could take it from the green fund, people would be really upset. I think that we should promote green fund in the future so that people know more about it. If people find out that we decided to cut MTU and not the green fund people would be pissed.

1. Ramthun: Just to reiterate, we don't have to take from one place we could make small cuts across the board or make one large cut

k. Gross: The green fund is looking into getting a person who would have a salary to manage the green fund.

l. Gunaratnam: I talked to my constituents about this and they were upset about the bus getting cut. But I think that if the bus is cut, people will see this effect every day. I think this is just important to keep in mind about the changes that would affect students every day.

m. Bancker: Don't you have more in your SUFAC reserves now than you are supposed to?

1. Ramthun: We do have more than usual right now but we are looking into implementing something in the spring that would help spend those extra funds and help fund more things. We took about \$12,000 to help one shots alone this year but it is very complicated.

a. Bancker: So wouldn't it make more sense to pull the money from the SUFAC reserves?



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- i. Ramthun: That’s a good concept but that money isn’t reliable because the reserves change from year to year.
- b. Bancker: So are these the same entities that we’ve talked about before that consistently have money to sweep back?
 - ii. Ramthun: There are multiple entities that have money swept back but some are more than others
- n. Tahiri: I’m just worried that if we take from the green fund that we might want to rely on that in the future, I just think that we need a long term plan that will benefit the most people at the end, even though that’s hard to do.

1. Ramthun: The problem is that we don’t know if we have projected similar trends, it’s not even that it’s a decrease in the number of students but just the type of students- more part time and less international. The budget office would just have to figure out what the next couple of years would look like. Any other questions or discussion? I guess what I’m trying to say is that we have options and we should just start generating ideas that would help with this. I’m most curious about the revenue increases. If you all want to tell me what you’re thinking about this that would be great. Feel free to come to SUFAC on Monday nights as well.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum

VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Jacob Schimmel

i. Hello all, just going off of the SUFAC presentation, I submitted our budget late last week. We had about \$4600 that were swept back to the reserves last year. With the budget process it’s just a matter of shifting the costs around. I shifted a lot of costs to the supplies because with the next couple of years we are looking into purchasing things that increase the legitimacy of Student Association. We had \$1000 funded for traveling and workshops but that money comes out of traveling. The year prior, pat and I are just going to have to make sure that the money is spent well. There is a lot of turnover in these positions, so it’s hard for Student Association president and vice president to spend all of that money. If you have any questions, please let me know. SA is hosting a forum tomorrow night and we will have some professors answer student’s questions. We will also have a college democrat and republican student tomorrow night. It won’t be a debate; we just want students to have an accessible information



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session. There is also popcorn. Speaking in relation to the election, I have been doing a lot to coordinate election places on campus and having the proper staffing. If you are an SRD and have a little bit of extra time on this day, please help out. If we don't have proper staffing, there will be a massive line. Last thing, I'm currently looking at the upcoming biennium budget. The UW system has requested a \$47000 increase in budgets and I'm looking to get UWL's perspective on this. So please keep this is mind. I will now just leave you with a video for the provost search and screen.

- b. Vice President: Patrick Brever
 - i. Shoutouts to folks with "Its On Us" (Alex and Brittney for putting teams together). Volunteer-Bridget, Lauren, Ryan, Madison. They have no office hours for this month. Also Alex and Danni for using FB for communication.
- c. Chief of Staff: Brady Gross
 - i. Lauren went to the CAPs meeting his last Friday and the policy with the 2-week withdrawal drop date was passed so it goes to faculty senate
- d. Deputy Chief of Staff: Lauren Mason
- e. State Affairs Director: Haley Jurecki
 - i. I have a few things, So the T-shirts, since there is a student association logo on the front they have to be approved. Lobbying is happening in late November. If you are signed up, I'm going to ask that you come to the leg. Affairs until the lobbying date on Tuesday nights. This is accordance with student reps and we will be focusing on that as well. So please if you are coming to lobbying, please come to those meetings. Then, if you have ideas that the leg. Affairs committee can discuss or accomplish please talk with us. The last thing is that I've been accepted to study abroad in the spring and I won't be leaving until February but if anyone has interest in doing this then they can.
 - i. Brever: If anyone is interested, please let her know.
- f. Local Affairs Director: Madison Wescott

VIII. RHAC Reports

- i. Burgess: On this next Thursday we have a senator election for RHAC and we have Joe Gow coming in as our guest speaker. In a couple of weeks, we are showing inclusive negligence.

IX. Advisor Reports

X. Committee Reports

- i. Bancker: SO AIDAC started taking about the budget this week. We have to cut about \$100,000.
- ii. Reinke: SSB met and we were talking about a lot of what Rachel was saying. There are also ideas about opening the new building.
- iii. Quaschnick: The grad curriculum committee met and we were talking about how syllabi with slash courses are not consistent across courses. We finalized the policy and sent it to faculty senate. Any courses that are offered next fall, we



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have to re-outline syllabi and by 2019 all syllabi have to be updated throughout the whole university

a. Gunaratnam: Is that just 400/500 level courses?

1. Quaschnick: Yes, split classes that have grad and undergrad students. It just helps illuminate what each student would do in those classes. The higher level learning commission said that our policies don't line up so we had to change them.

b. Gunaratnam: When I was registering on wings the course that I was signed up for was completely different than what the class was actually about. I'm just wondering if people could look across this and see what's different.

c. Bancker: This last week in CAPS we talked about slash level courses but apparently it's not required to have a syllabus with exact information on it. This has also been an issue with people transferring because they don't match up everywhere. Having the catalog information on the syllabus would be great.

1. Quaschnick: This is a really good idea and we need it to be accredited as a university.

i. Bhatoya: For the New Student Union, there is a soft opening January 1st and the grand opening will be January 23rd. The weekend before that there will be vanguard tours and Monday is the ribbon cutting. On Tuesday it is student orgs day. Wednesday will be the CAB event. Thursday will be the hip hop violinist. Friday will be the opening of Chartwells, credit union, and that night will be a student oriented "Iron Chef" and the students will be an open area so that people can view and the idea is that people will be able to try all of the foods. The big change is that the Saturday night was that it was supposed to be an alumni event but now we're trying to think of what we can do. We were thinking glow in the dark mini golf and movie night. Either Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings marathon. If anyone has any other ideas, please just let me know. The Sunday after is more vanguard tours and possibly an open house so that people in the community can come and check out the new building.

iv. Jurecki: Legislative Affairs met on Tuesday and we were talking about lobbying and this is also open to the general public. Also we will be meeting every Tuesday at 6:30 until we lobby

v. Levz: The library committee met and we are talking about making journals free which is called open access so you don't have to pay. We are looking for new ideas if any one has any.

Tahiri: At SUFAC on Monday, we talked about everything Rachel talked about and tabled two one shot requests.

XI. Organizational Reports

XII. Unfinished Business

a. SA1617-009: Resolution Dissolving the Academic Affairs Committee

i. Bancker: I guess I don't have anything to add that is different than last week.



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ii. Ames: I don't really believe that this can be passed anyways so we can just pick a direction and go with it tonight. I think we are all on the same page so let's just pick where we want to go with it.

iii. Kallis: motion to vote on what way to go

a. Second: Giles

1. Vote- APPROVED

XIII. New Business

XIV. Discussion

i. Kallis: I wrote a resolution to change the name of my senator position so that I can better represent our constituents

a. Bhatoya: What is the name now?

1. Rainbow Unity Senator

b. Quaschnick: I think that would be a constitution change

1. Kallis: No I already checked

ii. Schimmel: So the survey with the new student union names came back and we had a pretty good turnout but there were some silly responses. There was a good chunk that were legitimate and good ideas. Pat and I are going to go through this list and narrow it down for next week. For now, I subjectively picked out names that people might be interested in. One of the names is confluent and that just means when two or more rivers come together. Also, I included the name that no building is currently named after women. I didn't know if anyone had any comments on it this week.

iii. Brever: Naming the center itself is up to us and the building is opening January 3rd regardless of if there is a name or not.

a. Arney: So when do we have to have a name?

1. Schimmel: By the end of semester

XV. Announcements

i. Schimmel: Getting back to what we talked about last week with the search and screens we talked about sufficiently diverse means. In relation to expanding on diversity she said that it would be difficult to expand because of legal issues so I'm continuing to look into that. Further forms of diversity are kept in mind but this would comply with the standard definition.

ii. Floerke: Come to Howies

iii. Brever: I was able to get the volume so now we will show the video. I hope you enjoyed the video.

XVI. Adjournment

a. Motion: Gunaratnam, Second: Bhatoya

i. 7:47 pm