

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

Student Senate Agenda Date: November 30th, 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
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Chancellor Gow

i. Gow: Lately I've been getting a lot of issues around the Hmong class that will not be offered next semester. I would love to sit back and let the issue be explored and then come back to you and respond. I wouldn't want to take time before you're able to discuss that.

b. HOPE

i. Linda: co-chair of HOPE. These past few weeks have been very stressful while trying to figure this out. We've had some sleepless nights as we are discussing this class for our Hmong native speakers. Our language is our identity and this school is for diversity, inclusion & equity. I believe this is an important thing our school needs to look at as we go through it. I would like to thank Dr. Molar reinstating the class for next spring. I would like to thank her for reinstating the class. As someone who has been part of the process for the past few weeks. I want you to know how important this class is to us and our identity. I really want everyone to know that this is part of the inclusivity and diversity point of excellence that our campus says it's all about. I want you to know how much damage has been done to our community by eliminating this class and this discussion that has arisen. I want you all to look at the resolution that we have written up and really think about it.

ii. Maggie: I think that this really shows how detrimental this is to our campus and students from our community. Our culture is very family-bound. The population has been growing immensely. I think that for those of you haven't realized this problem. iii. Sung- thank you for allowing us this opportunity to talk. I'm an alum here. I graduated about 20 years ago. I'm here as member of the community and previous director of the Agency. As someone who is writing my dissertation on Hmong language. As for a community that didn't have a language until the 1950's, I'm here to encourage all of you to support this resolution. To us it is not just a language class about reading & writing. It's about who we are as a people and our history, our cultures, etc. we have totally different words from every Hmong population, we have multiple words that express maybe just one English word. Taking away this class takes our identity, our souls, and who we are. This resolution shows that we are in support of the resolution and our people, and that you all care about us and our people. And how our system contributes to our people here. Our whole community supports this. We can't move to another community as white folks are able to. Thank you.

iv. Laura: Central High School: I am here to support the fact that we need to reinstate this class and because it is our people, our culture, our identity. I have students who look forward to coming to this university. I think that this is something we should keep and not take away at any point in this semester. It represents a lot of things, not just Hmong people but the community of La Crosse & the Coulee Region.



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v. Fukai (sp.) I am a non-traditional student. I took a few years off and returned. One of the reasons I feel like you should strongly support this resolution is that I feel like this is home. I feel like I am valued and I fit in. Me, personally, growing up I have been in the 2nd language courses (ESL). Because of that, I've always been looked down upon because my English is great and I have an accent and I lose my identity. I've started valuing English speakers, putting them on a pedestal and looking down on myself. Coming to UWL I feel the same way and feel like I have no values surrounded by white people. From 2009 to now, I've seen a lot of changes. Younger generations are starting to speak up and trying to make a difference. I was surprised to see a Hmong course and to see that we are valued in this community, somewhere I can make a home for myself. Taking these classes away takes away that feeling and takes away the feeling of home. I encourage everyone to look at what this resolution has to offer and to show that we are a part of this community and this campus.

c. Dr. Moller

i. I am grateful for being here and to hear your voices and to learn from this space. This is my 4th month on the job and I appreciate the opportunity from all of you. ii. Julia Johnson: Tonight, I didn't plan a speech but respond to the authenticity of the room. I want to start by saying thank you for every email and the courage that is taking students in particular for speaking the truth of power and for the way you are acting as teachers to us all. No one in here really knows me but a few people. Situations like these ask that we are taking a leap of faith, however our system yields that we are not to trust those leaps. I am a scholar & teacher of culture & oppression. It is very difficult across the board to have these discussions as a dean. Context, in my mind, is everything. Why Hmong students & community members are so troubled is a decision that doesn't look that way. The context of the history of Hmong culture as well as the context of academics and that culture. Our country is based on racial and discrimination. We as a country are dealing with increased violence & increased discrimination with hate crimes, the murder of a Muslim student in Stout. I don't have the experience of racial bias. The experience I get is in teaching * research. Here is what I have found very troubling. The language that says we are eliminating Hmong courses. From the faculty perspective, we have to rotate classes and we have more Hmong courses offered to get students through the program and graduated. We have to take a very hard look at numbers. Las spring, 31 different courses were on the books that had to be taken off throughout the entire 15 departments that we had to eliminate. What is concerning to us is that courses have been eliminated when we have been looking at enrollment data that there is great enthusiasm and commitment of students to classes. We see that courses can't sustain enrollment. That communicates to us that we haven't been fully doing our job to create a curriculum structure that is easy for students to follow and finish. That worries me that I cannot show to external audiences that we can sustain courses and makes them more vulnerable and even more vulnerable in economically limiting situations. So there is a group of people that I've gotten together from across the college to come together to have a serious & prolonged conversation about how we can prolong & strengthen the Hmong classes. We have 6 Hmong courses available. There has been some miscommunication that faculty don't want to teach that class. Research means that we talk to the community, elders in the data, studies in other campuses, to figure out what we can do here. When we are not offering that class, we ask that you trust us we are going to be doing that research and do our due diligence. I want you to know our commitment to the community and trust in the academic process. I'm asking you to hold me accountable. Dec. 8th open forum. This next



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Tuesday, Dr. Moller & I are in Milwaukee where we are talking to alumni & donors. I want you to know that if we could've been here earlier we absolutely would've. Thursday the 8th is the earliest we can discuss, and begin multiple forums to continue that discussion. If I were in your shoes, I would also be voting in the resolution. Publicly, Dr. Bee. if we have slighted you, we apologize. We are trying to do our jobs and our due diligence and we are standing here to do right, and if we don't do that come for us because we then deserve it.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum

i. Kong: If we don't have a system that keeps our language relative. Now, we have a culture and that's all. We come to school and lose that culture because we don't practice it. Now we want to research on how to get more students into our classes. I want to say on this resolution, that our college should represent our community. I want to say thank you for saying what you did on our culture. It has been a hard time on our culture and community.

ii. Jenny: Our language is important on our campus. As an Ojibwa who has lost our language because of fitting into American school systems. I want you to put yourself into Hmong student's shoes. Although I know this is about enrollment, this isn't to these students. This is their lives. Do your part in preserving this culture. This may some students only chance to take this course. Usually when there's more courses to fit in the schedule when classes are eliminated. This isn't the case and isn't' about numbers, this is vital to the students.

a. In the email, what does "collaborative effort" mean?

1. UW System: collaborative language program. Hmong language classes on our campus are not that full. So we are reaching out to other campuses so that students from multiple classes can enroll in the course so it can continue to be offered.

iii. Chancellor Gow: It is very hard for me to argue with anything that has been said because of the eloquence and passion that is clearly on both ends. It is hard to be chancellor when situations such as this come up. To get messages such as I want my photo taken off the website, and this is hard for me to respond to those type of messages. I have had a long career in education, and now I'm titled Chancellor, however I've had multiple titles previous to this, that makes me lucky to be where I am now. About 3200 different classes are offered here. No one person can coordinate that. We have to rely on other people to do that. So we rely on the departments who are closest to the students, the majors & minors and what they need, and faculty, times, rooms, etc. this is very complex because if students don't classes who can't graduate on time. My understanding of this particular situation is an issue of what's the best way to do it. I try not to get too involved so I rely on the department to do what they are here to do, and so well. These are special topic courses, which is one we do to make a conscious contribution to the community. Over the years the enrollments are below the point we would like to see for a class to go, as we say. We have to address that issue to see how we can get the numbers up to do that. Having that course offered in the spring, the number if students would not be sufficient to do that. It is currently on the book for registration. Yes it will be offered in the spring, and students can enroll immediately. We still need sufficient enrollment to maintain the class. I will just finish my remarks with that a few years ago I had the privilege of welcoming a group of students & parents on our campus to prepare them to take the ACT to attend school. I could see the students translating to the parents what I was saying.

That was very powerful. We will come back to that and maintain this conversation.



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

VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Jacob Schimmel

i. Thank you to the chancellor. I would encourage everyone to listen while in discussion on this resolution. We had a great time with Reps lobbying in Madison. We will be sending out the binding survey to the students this week for the name of the Student Union name.

b. Vice President: Patrick Brever

i. Thanks to those who sat down to talk with the Ray cross yesterday. Only 3, but that's ok. Please let me know if you are not interested in being senator next semester so we can appoint new ones.

- c. Chief of Staff: Brady Gross
- d. Deputy Chief of Staff: Lauren Mason
- e. State Affairs Director: Haley Jurecki
- f. Local Affairs Director: Madison Wescott
- g. Inclusivity Director: Karlie Stefani. I do have the police report from the writing on the door as requested so please let me know if you want to know more on that.

VIII. RHAC Reports

i. Burgess: This Friday will be the formal dance at the La Crosse center. We will be selling masquerades at the center and encourage you to bring half masks. I encourage everyone to go!

IX. Advisor Reports

X. Committee Reports

i. Garcia: JCES meets on Friday where we will further discuss green fund requests to soon send onto SUFAC

ii. Bancker: After I presented AIDAC budget, I was going to see if anyone had questions on that after reviewing.

iii. Elvaker: Parking Appeals committee on Friday. I know there has been some discussion regarding changing some parking ramp rules. Is there anything you want me to ask while there?

a. Bhatoya: Why don't we offer free parking on the weekend like other campuses?

b. Lenz: Why are times set the times that are set for rules?

XI. Organizational Reports

i. Hodges: BSU & PRIDE center is having something in 259 Cartwright 11am-5pm is having free HIV & AIDS testing. The big event that BSU is having, Reflection of Ebony, is every year Feb. 4th this year. Tickets on sale next week!

ii. Kallis: PRIDE event 3310 Cent hall wed. Dec. 7th, 6-7:30pm ally workshop.
iii. SAPA: annual gingerbread making contest in Port O'Call on Dec. 5th from 7-9:30 make accessible gingerbread house

XII. Unfinished Business

a.SA1617-013: Resolution Changing Title of Rainbow Unity Senator to the Pride Center Senator

i. Kallis: rainbow unity senator to PRIDE senator to better encompass what we represent.

a. Garcia: I think it's a great idea! CTQ

1. Voted on; approved unanimously.



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

b.SA1617-014: Resolution to rename the Greek Life Senator to the Fraternity and Sorority Life Senator

i. Olp: changing Greek senator to Fraternity & Sorority Life Senator.

a. Garcia: We should approve! CTQ

1. Voted on; approved unanimously

c.SA1617-015: Resolution Amending Student Court Rules of Procedure

i. Faust: Rules of Procedure change. Makes easier for student court justices to

ii. Ben Jordan: I would like to propose an amendment. I would like to ammend the document to say: if the returning justice is not approved by the president then the justice cannot reapply to the position so long as the president who disapproved them is in office.

a. Quashnick: that's a lot of power. If the returning justice is not approved, so the president could be in power for the rest of the term of that justice. We are supposed to be equal branches of government.

iii. Gunaratnam: That is a lot of power. What are the reasons that the president would deny a returning justice? The reason could be anything; can you say anything on that?

a. Jordan: The president approves the application, so in order to maintain that process we wanted to keep this in so that when they do return, this would maintain the original approval process.

iv. Kallis: Clarification: is the president the only one who gets to decide the applicants? a. Jordan: President nominates, senate approves.

v. Ames: what kind of situation would arise when that justice wouldn't be approved again?

a. Schimmel: It was of my opinions that the students would be allowed to reapply if they get shot down. I would recommend that students are able to make an appeal though senate if the President does not approve them.

b. Ben: I like that idea. New applicants go through the president than senate for approval, but for returning justices we are trying to expedite this process. Talking from the overarching principal for 2.3 what tends to happen in that no one sits on the court for a month or so because the process takes that long when you have a full turnover of students from year to year. Generally, we need to go through this entire process every year but we would like to have some sort of institutional memory and only go through this process when people retire from court.

vi. Quashnick: Why do we need to approve them when the President already has 100% power because he approves them.

a. Ben Jordan: This is just to add some checks and balances. You caould state that the can reapply but they would need to go through the full approval process once again.

1. Quaschnick: I do not understand what would happen because if he wants to say no he can.

2. Jordan: It would be hard to disapprove approve someone right away unless they do not immediately meet qualifications. However, if they do not do their job they would have reason not to approve them.

3. Garcia: It is preventing students from coming to us instead and

spending a lot of our time when they would most likely not be approved anyway.

vii. Kallis: I move to add the language which would state that students are able to reapply a. Gunaratnam: If we get rid of this amendment would students be allowed to



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

reapply?

1. Voted: PASSED

d.SA1617-016: Resolution Requesting Use of REC for AAU Tournament i. No Discussion

1. Voted: PASSED

XIII. New Business

a.SA1617-017: Resolution Recommending Updates to the Student Association Constitution and Student Senate Bylaws

i. No Discussion

b.SA1617-018: Resolution Requesting use of the REC for the Men's and Women's Club Volleyball Playdate Tournament

i. Bhatoya: Is this new or have we done this before?

a. Reinke: Yes, we have done this in previous years.

c.SA1617-019: Resolution for Change in Green Fund Bylaws

i. Ames: There is green fund amendment language accompanying this. The gist is that the amount collected for the green fund would be reduced from 60k to 52,500 to make up for some of our budget issues this year. This would be in accordance with a few other changes such as MTU. We would like to start mandatorily collecting money from Viterbo (8K) every year to help us pay for MTU and the safe ride. In the attached document there is a breakdown of the couple other places the money will be taken from.

d.SA1617-020:Resolution for Acceptance of FY18 Allocable Segregated Fee Budget i. Ames: Essentially the same as above. Cheerleading is under general because they were removed from athletics last year and placed in general to give them a home. We are looking to move them to Student Services and Buildings. This is fun it almost 1 million dollars. None of the orgs that asked for an increase got one.

a. Gross: On here it shows that MTU was decreased, can you talk about it?
1. Ames: it is not a reduction really, this just takes away that part we are getting Viterbo to pay, In the past we have cut the whole check and needed to budget for that but now what we are getting money from them upfront we do not need to put that in our budget any longer.

e.SA1617-021: Resolution to Advocate for Hmong Learning Opportunities on Campus i. Vang: You all have already heard how our Hmong community feels about this. I have written this to ask you all to recognize how the Hmong learning opportunities are important on this inclusive campus. I am asking you to look at this as not a language class but as the community that it is effecting.

a. Gross: I would just make the recommendation to specify that we would like it to be about the traditional classroom experience

ii. Gunaratnam: It is clear that many students are passionate about this topic. A lot of people have talked about how they need to meet the 12-15 students to have the class but I have had a Spanish class with only 7 people in it that was not cancelled. We should support this because it is important to them.

iii. Quash: This is a big issue and many people came here to support it but I do have issues. There was an email sent out as well as information that we have heard today that address and contradict this resolution. It is important that we do discern whether or not distance learning should be a part of the course. I do not think that our body would weigh in on curriculum like this. We should not talk about this fully until after the open forum is held.

a. Moved to table the discussion until after the open forum on the 8th



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

iv. Bhatoya: A lot of the issues brought to us will also be addressed then to avoid repetition.

a. Kallis: I do not think this is something we can table and not talk about., There are people here who have come to hear us talk about it. I will be making a motion to suspend the 2-week rule

v. Hodges: This is about standing with our students and a community that is being targeted. We cannot wait on this.

vi. Arney: It would be excellent for us to have this to bring to the forum on the 8th. vii. Ames: I would like to support tabling. I believe that best thing we can do is to have an accurate resolution. I don't think there is a problem with this one but there clearly are some issues that need to be worked out with what is actually happening between with students and faculty. I hope to see this come back to senate after the

a. Reinke: We do not know enough about this and there were so many contradictions that it would be wise to wait and pick it up after the forum which we should all go to.

b. Lenz: Why would we vote on this before we wait to hear what everyone has to say. We are here to listen to the people and why should we shut down that discussion before the forum. I sent out the letter to you all and would encourage you all to read that letter making things a lot clearer.

viii. Elvaker: I would support suspending the two-week rule for this. Many of the same views are going to be coming up in the forum and there were many people here tonight showing how much it means to them. I don't think this is a policy change this is showing support for their community.

a. Jori: This is about listening to our community and standing solidarity with our community. Just to point it out, the only ones that have spoken about tabling it are white males.

b. Garcia: The first time I heard the document talked about was tonight. I would like to read that first before voting.

ix. Lee: I would like to table it because not many people are fully informed. This is coming from a point of a woman and half Hmong person.

a. Fish: This was only sent to MSO students I believe to begin with. I think there

is a great lack of information and it would be good for people to understand

more and get to know more. I am on the fence about tabling.

x. Tahiri: We are talking about listening to the community. To talk against white males is uncalled for. If we would like to get a greater community perspective, it only makes more sense to wait and hear from more of the community

xi. Burgess: for some of us it is easy to put this off, but it is vital to them. We have had enough information tonight.

xii. Vang: I am hearing a lot of data and when I introduced this. I asked you to forget about the data. I came here because this was closest to home and I do not feel like this is home. This is about my community, this language is us, this language is me. You all can go to the forum but this is asking for support and to recognize this is us.

a. Quaschnick: Do not take my motion as a lack of importance. This is incredibly important. I do not stand against the document but there are inaccuracies and there we are supposed to pass resolutions are factually correct. There is one if the first line. It is nothing against the document.



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

xiii. Olp: I would encourage all senators to reflect on the inclusivity training we had. Put yourselves in their shoes for this. Their community is the size of my constituency and it would be demoralizing to not have your student body stand by you

xiv. Nguyen: We create the rules we work by, and I understand that we need the data because of them. My question for you would be what happens when those rules are no longer working for us. We can change them because we made them.

a. Gunaratnam: We cannot wait until for the 14th to pass this. That is way too long. Last semester was the same thing we were waiting far too long to show support for our students or not supporting them at all. Of all resolutions we are choosing to table this one? That is ridiculous. We cannot do that. You were here to look out for student's best interests.

xv. Hodges: I just wanted to say that the forum will be more of what we saw tonight and having students pour their hearts. It will not be our discussion with the higher ups.

a. Weyker: I support this but the final decision would come down to the colleges. We are simply saying that we will support this and there is nothing wrong with that.

xvi. Arney: if we do not pass this tonight it will be showing a lack of support for them which is unacceptable.

a. Kallis: I have never seen more than one student back there tonight and there were WAY more than that. We are looking at data and these classes are not happening the way they state that they should be offered. That shows that the resolution still stands. I am asking that we listen to this community and fulfill our duty as a body.

xvii. Bhatoya: It would be a disservice to students to make an uneducated vote and I cannot do that.

a. Gibbins: If we were dedicated to inclusivity we would be promoting equity and the language itself on campus

b. Gunaratnam: I do not want to table this until after the forum. I would like to vote on it tonight

xix. Ames: I would like to clarify that I would object based on the inaccuracies in the resolution. If we can correct them tonight then it would be better to vote on tonight. There is a potential to make the resolution stronger if we wait.

a. Giles: I would like to understand the numbers. Based on the proportion of students that are able to take the class there is not a reason for the limit to be as high as

b. Quashnick: Rescinding my motion to table, needs a majority vote. (Passed by a majority)

1. Elvaker: suspend the two-week rule please. 14-11-0 Does not pass xx. Vang: It has been a long night. I understand why we do not want to do this resolution but I do not understand why the principals of the wording are not strong and you do not see the feelings of the community.

a. Tahiri: I believe we have found middle ground with wording and I believe that we are all in support of this issue. We do care about the feelings of the community

xxi. Gunaratnam: Moving to amend the document to state (insert amendments) PASSED a. Strike first whereas

b. Replace "cancelled before enrollment" with "not requested or listed"



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

 I think these ammendments will fix ainaccuracies that senators have stated. These amendments are true. I would like to open this up for discussion.
 xxii. Giles: trying to amend the amendment but a motion passed to only make one amendment at a time

a. Garcia: Could Alfonso accept something that as a friendly that says it will be offered as a distance learning class "Will be offered during spring 2017 semester as a distance learning course but students have stated distance learning would hinder learning in language classes" This was taken as a friendly

xxiii. Ames: we should avoid voting on this tonight so those with a vested interest can come back next week with something they would like to see

a. Gibbins: I would like it to say Hmong Language courses instead of MLG but will make that amendment later on.

xxiv. Olp: would like to amend the document: strike "to reinstate these classes" (12-14-0)a. Vang: This would not address the issue that we are facing now, it is distance learning and not on your campus, we would like to have it back on campus

b. Bhatoya: Can we have it say reinstate classes on campus instead??

c. Garcia: Can we say to reinstate on the UWL campus pending further research

d. Gibbins: We do not have that much power; you are asking for way too much. We have power but this is just to show support.

1. Vang: Motion to suspend the two-week rule

xxv. Ames: This exists so we can fully understand the document and I do not understand the document or what we are voting on. I did not get to properly prepare for this xxvi. Garcia: move to amend to say "ensure these classes will be held in person on the UWL campus"

1. Vang: suspend two-week rule?

i. Bancker: I do not understand why we are doing this when we are going in circles because this is not productive. I move to close discussion.

a. Kallis: We need to vote on this tonight. I object. 2. Elvaker: suspend the two-week rule – second by Arney (17-10-0) FAILS

a. Gunaratnam: We need to vote on this tonight. There should be no reason we suspend the two-week rule.

xxvi. Staffan: We should not have to make them wait when this is something that they need our utmost support on. This resolution is about the idea and this is an idea that we need to support, we need to do this for them. With everything that has happened and everything that needs to happen for them we cannot put the pause button on this.

a. Giles: move to amend – strike second whereas and replace with whereas Hmong language classes were not offered in Spring 2017

1. PASSED

b. Gunaratnam: This was proposed a while ago; I do not think this makes that big of a difference. It is the therefore be it resolved that matters.

c. Kallis: If the language is not an issue any longer I do not understand why we cannot suspend the two-week rule

1. Ames: I do not have enough information on this. We have only removed it for procedural times.

d. Bancker: We have these rules to make choices that are best for students. I cannot see why it is necessary to pass this this week.



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

xxviii. Arney: It may be policy to due the two-week rule but most will not understand what the point of that is or where we are coming from. We need to vote and pass this because it basically tells them that we are going to think about it and that is not the message that we are going to send.

a. Gibbons: We are here to talk to our constituents and stuff like that but the people that are going to be effected are our constituents and we have already heard from them. There were here tonight. We heard from them and have said that a loss of language is a loss of themselves. What this resolution is that we stand with them, nothing else. This is no longer their words. We are intending the two-week rule to not have that strong of an inpact but it does

1. Move to suspend the two week rule Gibbon/Burgess PASSES(19-8) a. Call to question – Garcia PASSED (25-2-0)

- xx. Discussion
- xxi. Announcements
- xxii. Adjournment