



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1725 STATE STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **March 22, 2017**

Time and Location: **6:00pm Student Senate Chamber; The U**

- I. Call to Order
 - i. 6:00 pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of agenda
 - b. Garcia: Strike the 3rd guest speaker due to lack of being able to come to meeting
 - i. Motion: Garcia, Second: Burgess
 - a. PASSED
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Rep. Jill Billings
 - i. Billings: Nice digs, well deserved and this is great, how do you like the building? I'm representative Jill Billings, I represent the 95th which is La Crosse, Shelby and a little bit of French Island. I've loved this district since I was a county board supervisor, students are a huge part of a community and they bring so much life. That is what drew me to La Crosse and when I ran for county board and knocked on doors I fell in love. I have two kids who are in college. I'm here to talk about the budget for those of you not as familiar the Governor writes a budget proposal and then the Joint Financial Committee comes in and the Governor delivers the budget to us, a lot of it leaked this year and the university came out better this time but to me it was still a little bit disappointing and I understand the importance of people at the university, taking care like the people before us did. So there will be a listening session on the campus, Joe Heim organized this just a reminder that's Friday March 31, I will be there. In the budget there was an extra \$42 million as requested by the board of regents and it is based on performance, this has been implemented in the tech colleges but to me it concerns me because it opens the door, personally I'm not for this but I guess I have more faith in the university system. The other big thing was a 5% reduction in tuition but my problem was that it was back filled by the state, the problem is that we know republicans know that is a ripe cherry to pick and since we have such a short fall in transportation I think some republicans view that as a funding source to pull away, so we'll see what happens. What I think might happen, I think that \$35 million will be taken and I am on the



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college and university committee and I know one issue that you are all concerned about is the allocable funding and the segregated fees, I have concern for that too. You don't get to pick and choose what you want to fund with taxes so I don't think it makes sense to do that with segregated fees and I realized where those fees go and I think that's an important thing for legislatures to understand; there might be programs that the legislatures don't agree with so their solution was this in the budget but I encourage you to express how you feel on this issue but for me, seeing everything that this funds. I think that there would be a big problem with allowing people to opt out. I think this is a good chance this could get pulled from the budget and I think your voice does make a difference. The Joint Finance Committee is listening to the budget this week and next and after that is the public listening sessions, I encourage you to go because it is an interesting experience, I first went when I was a stay at home mom and I was very afraid and nervous but these legislatures are just regular folks and I encourage you to come early to get signed up on the schedule but it will be an all-day event but it's worth it and I think it makes a difference. I'm doing another listening session in town on April 3rd, I think at the south side learning community but I don't think what's out now with the budget will be the final product there are people not seeing eye to eye on transportation and they are fighting that out behind closed doors. I think that there will be significant changes when it gets finalized and the republicans and the legislatures don't want to look like they took from universities again, when you talk about allocable funding you should talk about the general budget as well..

a. Floerke: With the allocable budget is that currently how it's laid out with the example you gave with the taxes of picking and choosing?

1. Billings: When you sign up for the 2018 year you will get a notice that if you want to pay for allocable fees, but it would be one full option not line by line. Can I talk about the violence prevention specialist? I had some students come to my office from UWL and they talked about the Violence Prevention Specialist Ingrid Peterson and spreading that position to other UW schools and within two weeks I found out that there are 4 other legislators working on the same legislation but their models are a little different, we would like to have someone who is on campus and paid on campus, someone that the students know and the increase in reporting is really astounding



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having Ingrid here on campus. This is something that is of great concern to me and that our campuses should be safe places and sexual violence shouldn't be swept under the rug and if it does happen people should have a place to go and talk about it and work toward healing. So some people have different ideas of the ins and outs and I like our model and so do our students but it is still in negotiating but I will keep you updated.

a. Olp: If we ever want to get in contact with you how can we reach you?

1. Billings: I'll hand out my cards, I have some great staff so the best way to contact me is through my office. I'm around town a lot although this is my marathon month, I sit on the Governors opioids task force and there is legislation that came out of that and that is delivering naran and someone asked me to include an amendment to include residence hall directors, it includes 4 year colleges, 2 year colleges, tech colleges and hall directors can deliver naran as well without civil liability. You can also look me up online as well. I'll just let you know, if you're interested in working on campaigns there are internships available in the office and someone just my son got his friend a job and that our staff person will be going to law school but if you want to work in the capital and are interested if you want to get involved in politics just give me a call.

b. Ron Chamberlain

i. Chamberlain: PRAT- Premiere Resort Area Tax- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you tonight. Although I represent the county I am allowed to speak to facts and not give you an opinion. I cannot support or oppose this because that would be a conflict of interest. With that in mind we can continue. So the question on the ballot will be how do taxpayers in La Crosse want to pay for the roads, a yes vote would be sharing with tourists and visitors, a no vote would be that you continue to pay for roads through debt or property taxes. Illinois and Connecticut have the 2 worst road conditions and Wisconsin is the 3rd, this is not how it has always been. What does deferred maintenance look like, this is a bridge abutment and this is deteriorating and the concrete is delaminating. CTHJ in fish creek there is a section loss of the pier and it is significant and on the right it is crushed and normally the limit on a bridge is 80,000 lbs, so anything larger than a pickup truck would be damaging. So we have a



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growing shortfall, currently as of 2015 road rating and 2017 for the budget we're looking at \$87 million on 12 out of 69 bridges, 43.5% that are county highways are in that type of state, we didn't touch on local municipalities for county highway we have \$2.7 million and \$1.9 for general, \$5.7 contracted state and federal, and \$.6 municipality. We are the only state that uses this model we get \$5.7 million for the state trunk highway system and we are not allowed to make a profit and we get \$.6 from municipalities. The Governor has proposed the largest budget increase to highways and we told the governor that 8% and it would give us about a 5th of a mile of a road and so not that much money. When we reconstruct a road we try to make it last another 25-30 years. There are maintenance costs with asphalt and concrete and we need to start overlaying 9.5 miles and seal coat for about 19 miles with the budget that we have we're doing 6.3 miles of reconstruction and managing about 20 miles of seal coating, that should be reconstructed not receiving maintenance. WI set up transportation costs for people at least 20,000 people. We have number problems one of them is inflation and it shows hot mix, asphalt, rock and everything in the transportation is based around fuel and asphalt oil used to be, that's become a real supply and demand issue as the costs go up the usage has gone down subsequently there is less diesel being produced and while that is going on the refining industry they are drawing the good stuff out of the crude oil. La Crosse county has been under a tax levy freeze and we were up against that until 2 years ago and now we run up against the current freeze and there isn't enough money or ways to get that. We are paying for roads on a credit card, \$2.7 million everyone here is racking up this type of debt but we don't have enough money and it's not long term sustainable, an idea we put up the PRAT, the county board has elected to look at this and share the revenue with local municipalities, you can keep the flash drive. What is PRAT? We have been looking for funding options and turned over every rock, counties are limited on how to make revenue, it is revenue only to be used on structure by statute, the tax is on the customers and are identified by a business code which is set by the feds. A county or municipality can have a PRAT but not both, the county would levy that but the city could not do that. PRAT would provide \$6.6 million and borrowing for roads and 2018 would be our first year and this would hopefully decrease property tax in the county. The estimate is about 11% tourists, 25-26% visitors, and the rest would be the citizens of La Crosse. This would create jobs and in the winter we keep our staff up and running in the summer but we are looking at maxing out \$2-3 million in construction, the thing that has come up in presentation



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is that concern that the county would raid the transportation fund but that's not possible under the statute language. Wheel tax was examined and overwhelming got shut down and in 2014. We just got done with public information sessions, April 4th is an advisory referendum and if we get a yes the local legislatures, they would be sponsoring a bill to have La Crosse be a premiere resort area, if that happens we would vote again and have a binding referendum. Sharing the revenue locally is something the board decided to do, the county will share up to 25% how that is split will take place within the municipalities. People are adamant about using the how much will this cost, household items for the residents, we do know this will give us safer roads and property tax. How will this affect me, appliances are included and that's a \$5 increase in tax on \$1000 appliances. We are not talking about a whole lot of extra money, so this is the question you will see on the ballot. Questions and resources, the county website has a link on it and they have some great information. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

a. Rosa: I hope you all encourage your constituents to go out and vote and if anyone else needs any more advice, if you could all look at the logo on the pamphlet does it look pretty and do you like it? I just wanted to get everyone's opinion on that. Thank you Ron.

b. Garcia: Are there any other counties looking at this?

1. Chamberlain: We are the first county to be looking at this tax.

c. Bhatoya: What is a tourist business?

1. Pardon me for being a smart ass but the Dells and Lake Delton looked at all the businesses in their area and a couple years later some big businesses came in and so they thought it was fair to include those in the tax.

2. Bhatoya: What businesses here would be in it?

a. Chamberlain: Kwik trip said they would be in this, restaurants, taverns, motels, if it's taxable in any of the codes it will fall in this. If it's nontaxable then it's nontaxable. I can't get more specific than that, we asked the department of revenue and we were told that was confidential and there is a wedding dress shop that is in it.

d. Mueller: Would this expire?

1. Chamberlain: Right now there is no sunset code for this but the magic number under today's cost is 5 million a year so an extra \$2.3 than we have right now. Could the county



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board rescind this? Yes. They could eventually put in an ending clause but it's not in yet.

e. Kallis: I'm looking over this, in your expertise would you say that technically because the bookstore here could qualify as a mechanizing place could it be taxed?

1. Chamberlain: I know there of 2 bookstores- one that is an adult bookstore which will be taxed and the other is not.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum

i. Lang Vue: Good evening my fellow peers and my name is Lang Vue and I am here to talk about inclusivity on our campus. Our nation is facing such a deep divide and I do challenge some people to try to listen to listen and not to listen to respond, be open minded and find the value and meaning, be empathetic and put your shoes in other peoples and I am just a peasant in the galley while you all have power against me. Change can be good and change can be bad, every one running for a senator, I hope that it is because you are passionate and not just for a resume building. I will remind you of the UWL mission statement, fostering leadership and demonstrating respect and you represent the students and anything and everything that happens. Our campus is 108 years young but I would love for this senate to set a precedent for future generations, I encourage people to interact with 4 different people every day.

ii. Ben: I'm with the Chi Phi Fraternity and we're doing a fundraiser called Sarah's Softball and last year we raised \$7500 for nonviolence this is a near and dear cause to us. Sarah was shot and killed in her home and we are hoping to prevent this further, we are trying to fill out 2, 16 team leagues this year but like I said if you could bring this information back to your orgs to make this successful that would be great.

a. Schimmel: How can senate get involved with this?

1. Ben: On the flyer, team registry is \$200 so a 10 person team is \$20 for each person.

VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Jacob Schimmel

i. Schimmel: A number of things happened over break, I lobbied in the capital with some fellow senators and it was productive meetings. We learned 2 things in relation to the budget, it's looking like an overall good situation I think a lot of legislators are hesitant to walk it back but they don't want to give answers right away but I think that overall we might gain more than \$42 million. The \$35 million that Jill was talking about was originally going for transportation but talking to another they are interested in keeping that money with UW, I guess I'm not as confident as



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him but some other people I've talked to are dead set with the tuition cut but it look like the \$35 million might stay with the UW system and they were thinking about replacing that with financial aid. I think that would be great because it would benefit the individuals would can't pay for school as easily more instead of the students who already can pay for it or their parents are paying for it. I think that the senate should take a stance on this. With allocable seg. fees this situation is looking better than before, from my understanding the UW system, their lobbying efforts don't focus on the allocable side so people who are advocating for the allocable have been students from our campus or others. I've had multiple people tell me they didn't have a good idea of the allocable fees, after talking to Jeff from his end of things it looks like the allocable fees are on shaky grounds and that's a great effort so I would encourage people to call their legislators, I will talk about that in a second but we have a good shot of getting that out there. The violence prevention specialist, at the moment there is interest in it and some legislators have an idea more related to community based funding and support, talking to Jill there is no legislation right now but there is talk of people drawing up their ideas, Jill is thinking about throwing the legislation out there before others if that's what it comes to. Jill, and I will be encouraging folks to talk to Ingrid so they can see her perspective on the matter but things are looking good because there is some type of movement. The Joint Finance Committee hearings, so they will hold 6 hearings, the closest hearings are about 2 hours away but we are going to do it, I want UWL to be at the April 3rd hearing and the April 19th in Elsworth WI, both of those are about 2 hours away and I will make sure to have reimbursements be made if they are driving their own cars. If you are able to come please let me know, I want to encourage student orgs and athletes come to this too so if you are also any of those that would be great. These hearings could really do the trick with taking the opt out of the budget. I will put these on the Facebook page and I will be at these specific two but if you are wondering what this hearing is about, citizens come and speak their minds and you get to say whatever you want for about 2-3 minutes and it's going to be huge and we'll probably want to leave around 5 in the morning and then try to get out of there by noon. I'm also coordinating with reps for an April 10th lobbying day, I want to get on UW Milwaukee's level of people who go with.

a. Quashnick: Isn't that a Monday?

1. Schimmel: Yes, but with the budget and how busy the legislators are we are also going to have April 26th be just a UWL lobby day. Other than that, really try to make one of



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these hearings with me but I think this is our chance to get the allocable out. James in communications is doing the opt out video and we will probably send that out soon.

- b. Vice President: Patrick Brever
 - i. Brever: Last meeting we had the rep from GENA and he is interested in a follow up meeting with a smaller group of students to listen to student opinions. Also, applications are live for senators next year, hopefully you will all be running again.
 - c. Chief of Staff: Lauren Mason
 - i. Mason: Faculty senate met last Thursday and it was rough, the chair of CAPS didn't show up for the first 25 minutes but they did not like it and they are comfortable with some sort of grading criteria but not as much as we wanted. Ours was too specific and theirs was too vague so CAPS will have to meet again to discuss where to go from here but if you want to be a part of it just let me know. If anyone needs help with anything just let me know, I'm still willing to help.
 - d. State Affairs Director: Tyler Halloran
 - i. Halloran: I want to echo everything President Schimmel said, there is a bill circulating in senate and within that there is an intern position up to \$3000 for new businesses and go up to \$125,000 and a requisite total of \$125,000 that the committee must allocate and that sounds very low to me if you are mandating internships statewide.
 - a. Mason: Would they have to apply to get the money for the interns?
 - 1. Halloran: Yes, it has to go towards intern funding.
 - b. Quashnick: So that's for every student in the state?
 - 1. Halloran: It's for new businesses and goes deeper into that and could be expanded on if we lobbied on it.
 - e. Local Affairs Director: Madison Wescott
 - i. Know that the off campus housing page is coming, communication has been difficult.
 - f. Inclusivity Director: Karlie Stefan
- VIII. RHAC Reports
- IX. Advisor Reports
 - i. Dr. Ringgenberg: Welcome back, I just figured out we only have about 6 meetings left so I expect it to be very busy and let's do good work.
- X. Committee Reports
 - i. Floerke: Rec 2.0 met yesterday and we are still figuring out the new configuration of the equipment and how to make it look more inclusive for people who are not weight lifters and I got in contact with Doug Pearson



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and he gave me this drawing and we don't know exactly what it will look like yet but it looks like you won't be able to see the solar panels from the ground and so I'm going to set up a meeting with Doug Pearson and he brought up the point that we could purchase a live measurement device or signage to promote but I'll keep you updated, we did pass it so hopefully it will be visible.

a. Garcia: Does it need to be on the rec addition?

1. Floerke: To my understanding, yes.

ii. Bancker: Academic Affairs will be selecting the commencement speakers tomorrow and so please let me know if you would be able to, we are listening to 11 applicants.

a. Garcia: How many people applied per ceremony?

1. Bancker: I don't know that off the top of my head.

iii. Olp: The student Orgs committee needs one more senator, the biggest thing we do is approving new student orgs on campus and we are also kind of working with the CAB situation and we meet at Monday's at 4:00 pm.

iv. Ames: SUFAC finished the nonallocable budgets this week and we don't have direct control over that but they often take our advice but we didn't have much advice to give. JCES looked at green fund requests and we can't vote on them until they change the bylaws so JCES was going to pass them to SUFAC but the bylaws need to be approved first. Likely the bylaw issues will be resolved shortly but that's the situation, come to JCES or SUFAC

a. Garcia: I tried updating the Green Fund bylaws but if anyone is interested in helping I would really appreciate it so it's ready for senate next week.

v. Quaschnick: We made some changes to political science and public administration slash courses we changed 498 and 598 courses and the psychology department are deciding to separate some classes and we allowed the MBA program to allow students to test out of some classes so hopefully that would help people with money and time.

XI. Organizational Reports

i. Kallis: Over Spring Break I went to LeaderShape, I brought back a lot more knowledge about myself and other people one thing that we focused on a lot was active listening but being engaged in but another thing there was an ally workshop yesterday and our next one is coming up in April so you can all come to learn about how to be a better ally for all marginalized communities and I hope you had a great spring break.

a. Rosa: About the drag show, are non UWL students allowed to sign up because I have a friend in Chicago who does drag shows



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and she would like to sign up?

1. Kallis: They have to send an email to the pride center and it's up to the discretion of the pride center

2. Rosa: Follow up question, how provocative can this show be?

a. Kallis: Legally as much as possible, it's a 18+ audience.

ii. Olp: Greek week starts on Sunday and lip syncing will be and I think that everyone should get involved in Sarah's Softball

iii. Gunaratnam: Students for Free Tibet will be having a bake sale next week and there will be gluten free options and ASO will be having UWL Got Talent and if you are going to AMSLC it's free or it's \$5 at the door on Friday- March 31st 9:00 pm and the bake sale is next Monday.

XII. Unfinished Business

XIII. New Business

a. SA1617-042: Resolution Appointing Election Commission

i. Brever: I'm looking for volunteers tonight and the job has become easier and it is an uncontested race for president and vice president, if you are a part of election commission you cannot be on senate next year.

ii. Volunteers: Rosa, Halloran, Burgess, Westcott

iii. Garcia: move to suspend 2-week rule, second: Rosa

a. Vote on 2-week rule suspend: Y- 95%

b. Call to Question: Garcia, Burgess

1. Vote on Resolution 042: Yes- 84%, No- 16%

b. SA1617-043: Resolution to Initiate a UWL Student Survey on Implementing a Fall Break on Campus

i. Burgess: So for those of you who don't know I've been working on this resolution and got 2 new co-authors, last year we wrote a resolution in my subcommittee but it didn't go far because of lack of research but I brought it back this year and I thought that it would be appropriate to put out a survey on this and put out a qualtrics to all students, we are open to suggestions.

ii. Garcia: I was just wondering how it worked day wise since we start on Tuesday and we have the Monday we missed during Thanksgiving week and that's why we have Tuesday and Thursday classes that week, would certain days lose time for the fall break?

a. Burgess: I was thinking about pushing it into August but with the public schools since it is something on the state level, in Wisconsin they cannot start in August but I haven't looked into that specifically but we just wanted a survey.



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- b. Garcia: Does anyone else have a fall break?
 - 1. Kallis: They are like long weekends and Platteville has that.
- c. Hodges: Do you know when the survey will go out?
 - 1. Burgess: I was hoping to get the 2-week rule suspended but hopefully it could go out pretty soon, I was hoping this could be in October but we could modify the survey
 - 2. Hodges: I think that half way through the semester would be better.
- d. Elvaker: Do you know the process of what UWL would have to undergo if the survey comes back with a lot of support and the steps to make it happen?
 - 1. Burgess: I haven't looked into that because I wanted to see how much support we would have on that, again I still have to look into the logistics of that.
- e. Leek: Do you have any idea how much earlier we would have to start?
 - 1. Burgess: It really depends on what students want it, just that's where the feedback would come in, I wouldn't want to extend it past 5 days.
 - 2. Leek: I think adding that into the resolution would be great so that people know what that is?
- f. Mueller: Are these the only two questions as of now?
 - 1. Burgess: There are more specifics to it but I'm okay with the amendments.
- g. Bhatoya: So you hadn't mentioned that you talked to Faculty senate cause if you don't talk to them we could get a bunch of students excited about it and then not have anything happen and if faculty see this without being talked to they would be really angry because they put a lot of time into their syllabi and their classes matter way more to them than there break.
- h. Kallis: When is the next faculty senate meeting?
 - a. Mason; This Thursday
 - 2. Kallis: I really like data and surveys, I think the survey is important, it may get some students excited but we would be able to gauge where their attitudes are at.
 - i. Kallis: Suspend 2 week rule so we can get the data so we and move forward.



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vi. Bhatoya: Objection, I don't want to throw the survey out there and I want a more concrete view before approving this.

vii. Schultz: We started on the 5th or 6th but if we started on the 1st

a. Burgess: I was looking into that too and I was sent a couple documents on how the academic year is currently structured but some years we start as early as September 2nd and in others we start later but unfortunately with how labor day falls some years we start school earlier.

viii. Bancker: The only thing I was wondering is that I know it's a law for public schools not to start before September 1st, is this survey even possible, I would like us to see if this is something that can happen

whether that's talking to the provost or other people who could help

xi. Burgess: I did have conversations with faculty senate and she said that a general consensus that they liked the idea but with the CSAH they have a lot of lab stuff but if there was a way to lift the limitation of the September start then they would be more in favor of it but again I can follow up with her again.

x. Garcia: I was just going to second the statements made by a senator about talking to faculty because some teach summer classes and if you work for residence life and you can't take class while working so maybe just more looking into those dates before sending out.

xi. Ames: move to close discussion, second: Gunaratnam

a. CLOSED

XIV. Discussion

i. Schultz: I had a question for Dr. Larry, do you know when Cowley hall will stop shaking?

a. Dr. Ringgenberg: I expect very shortly.

ii. Hodges: I wanted to talk to some people about the resolution that was shot down before break and just wanted to see if the people would want to meet and discuss it?

iii. Kallis: I would really love to set up a meeting with both of the authors in the best way we can go about this, I understand there are a lot of opinions and so I'm willing to have more conversations about this resolution but if you want to be a part of this please just send me an email or a message on Facebook.

iv. Dr. Ringgenberg: I talked to Patrick and as a senate we really need to talk about the issues that were brought up a couple of weeks ago and I think before we go into this issue again, we need to talk about this and we need to address the issues about privilege and race before we move ahead with this because I don't want the tension in here to happen again and I



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know we talked about bringing someone in to help facilitate but I think it's better not to surprise you with this next week.

a. Olp: Would it be at all possible for us to do a senate outing in a place that is not in this environment?

1. Brever: We talked to someone in the student life office about mediating the discussion in the office, I don't think it's one that I am capable of handling and I think it would be important that the conversation be the main focus but I will keep you updated on that and I think it's important that we have that discussion.

a. Lang: Is that open to people outside of senate?

i. Brever: That would probably be a closed meeting.

b. Dr. Ringgenberg: If you have any ideas of where you would like to meet please let me know.

v. Burgess: I am also working on a resolution with accessibility issues in centennial and in the parking ramp and specifically I am referring to adding push buttons to doors on centennial, I was hoping to work on that and would hopefully be going to staff.

vi. Rubert: Just in terms of the parking ramp, I'm sure there are designated portions that are handicap

a. Burgess: But the problem is there isn't any buttons, it just needs to be accessible regardless because to me it's just contradicting, they had accommodating stalls but no buttons.

vii. Mason: I know a couple weeks ago we talked about the issue of students observing diversity org meetings, have any of you heard anything or if it's something that you would like me talk about in faculty senate?

a. Vang: I was updated on this and some of the things would be going to forums or panels and ask questions, if there were time to create the discussion where you can speak your mind about things and figuring out where they are from what they are like, I think that would help.

b. Kallis: Currently, there has been 1 student of coming for a class but what I know of that in the past from the PC perspective we had no people coming from classes and I know Will has talked to some people about it and we have a meeting next week to talk about it but we haven't had an issue since break but I can update you more next week, I'm trying to get a meeting with Provost Morgan but I think that we will write a letter to the faculty members to the faculty who are sending students to the meetings.



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- viii. Garcia: I want to ask again for people to change the bylaws so that you don't all hate it next week.
- XV. Announcements
 - i. Brever: If you are hoping to run for senate please turn in the paperwork on time.
- XVI. Adjournment
 - i. Motion: Gunaratnam, Elvaker
 - a. 8:13 pm