



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1725 STATE STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8717

SA1617-032: Resolution Taking Stance on Governor Walker’s Budget Proposal for UW System

DATE: February 14, 2017

AUTHOR(S): Jacob Schimmel

SPONSOR(S): Legislative Affairs Committee, Weston Floerke

WHEREAS; Governor Scott Walker has recently unveiled a proposal to fund the UW System at approximately \$140 million, including \$105 million in new state dollars;

WHEREAS; UW System is in need of new state aid as it has been consistently cut for years, with a \$250 million cut during the most recent biennium;

WHEREAS; a 5% tuition cut would be enacted in the second year of the upcoming biennium if this budget is approved;

WHEREAS; a tuition cut would benefit students at UWL provided that the state fund the tuition cut in full at \$35 million;

WHEREAS; Governor Walker has also proposed an ‘opt-out’ option for allocable segregated fees that would allow students to choose whether or not to pay for these fees;

WHEREAS; these fees go towards organizations and services such as safe-ride and bus services, varsity athletics, intramurals, multicultural programs, music programs, theatre, and many other entities;

WHEREAS; an ‘opt-out’ option would certainly decrease funding for these entities and likely have a significantly detrimental impact, potentially resulting in cutting off certain services and creating budget uncertainties from year to year;

WHEREAS; an “opt-out” provision has caused extreme concern from student representatives across the state, such as entities like Associated Students of Madison, UW-Milwaukee Student Association, UW-River Falls Student Association, and UW System Student Representatives;

WHEREAS; the Governor has also proposed a mandatory internship or work experience be required for every UW Student prior to graduation;

WHEREAS; while the UWL Student Senate supports the promotion of internships and related work experience across all majors, it opposes an across the mandate because of, but not limited to, the following reasons;



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- There is a serious unknown on the number of college-level work experience that is actually out there for the demand in positions that would be caused by this provision
- Unless a change in the curriculum is made, many students would be put at risk of having to stay another semester (graduating in 4 years is already difficult for many majors)
- There will be far too many internships that do not pay students and work opportunities that don't pay enough for what students need in a college job. This especially hurts many first-generation college students (and plenty of others - students taking out loans in Wisconsin graduate with nearly \$30,000 in debt on average)
- Additionally, some majors already require internships, many of which are unpaid. This ultimately adversely impacts college affordability and acts as opposition to the goal of the current executive budgets agenda, decreasing the cost of higher education.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the UWL Student Senate supports the \$105 million in new state aid and the \$35 million to support the 5% tuition cut.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the UWL Student Senate opposes the “opt-out” option and the mandatory internship/work experience requirement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the UWL Student Senate supports the current system of requisite internships on a case by case basis decided by department faculty

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that upon the passage of this resolution, it be sent to the offices of Governor Scott Walker, UW System President Ray Cross, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, Senate Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling, Speaker Robin Vos, and all members of the Joint Finance Committee.

Handwritten signature of Patrick Brever in black ink.

Patrick Brever
President, Student Senate
Vice President, Student Association

02-22-2017

Date

Handwritten signature of Jacob Schimmel in black ink.

Jacob Schimmel
President, Student Association

02-22-2017

Date



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