



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **October 24th, 2018**

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:04 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Passed
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a. Provost Betsy Morgan
 - i. Morgan: The big things going on, and I'm sure you're all aware of it, is the revision of a general education which will not affect you in this room, but we're excited about it. The last time we changed gen ed was 25 years ago. Starting next fall, we're piloting 28 sections of the new first year seminar and that's essentially 2 credits of content that's supposed to be more interesting. The other thing that I'm excited about is the pre-health advising center that we launched this summer, it had its grand opening last week.
 1. Lawlis: I have a professor and she is on the gen ed faculty revision committee and she says that things are getting pretty contentious and I don't know how much you know about that, but do you know some of the areas of contention when it comes to revisions and what don't they seem to agree on?
 - a. Morgan: I really don't know because I'm considered the evil administrator and so I've stayed as far away from those discussions as possible. I can tell that the ugliest in my 25 years at UWL meetings I've ever been in in my life, are gen ed meetings. They strike at the heart of people's real values of what does it mean to be an educated person. It's also a turf war. On the sensitive issues it really is contentious which is what does a student have to know or get from gen ed and that's when it gets so nasty. What are the requirements versus the choices? The one that they were fighting about was how student learning outcomes were going to be written, that I think is still on that first-year core.
 2. Khan: All education majors have to buy iPads and I know that went through all the former channels and I also know that people were against that and it still went through. I was wondering if students spearheaded a movement to see if we could either absorb the cost some other way or do something about it?
 - a. Morgan: I can't answer you specifically except to tell you that I know that when they talked about it, they talked about mechanisms where a student would be able to say, 'I can't afford this, do we have some additional funding for it?' Often times,



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those don't work well because it requires the student to come forward and say you know here's the problem. The school built it around the idea that there would be a certain percentage of students who need help, but I can ask and get back to you on that. In terms of 'will the model change?' – the model won't change now, but the question about what we can do for people who can't afford it because it's a program cost. This is unlike what we call the Fitbit fiasco from last year. This is a little different because, like you said, it was much more vetted across the college. The other thing we could do is put some of these on reserve at Murphy and have people check them out for the semester, for instance, but the idea is that you're going to be using it your whole career as a student.

- b. Khan: Exactly, and especially since education is having trouble retaining students of color and students who are of low socioeconomic status.
 - c. Morgan: I don't know if that's true for the school of ed more than anyone else, but it is certainly true for the university. I'll try to find out for you.
3. Kallis: I've been in conversations with Will from the Pride Center and Barbara Stewart and we've had conversations about HPR 105 in terms of the gen ed plan and about how it's one of the classes with the most hate and bias reported about it and is a very problematic class. And so, we've been kind of talking along with JMAC working on diversity training for faculty and I want to know the feasibility, I now have a greater understanding that the folks that are teaching it are academic staff, and the class is housed in kind of a weird place – the feasibility of making it not part of gen ed requirement. Because I've looked at other schools and how they do like the health courses and things – it's different than how we do it here and so I'm wondering on your opinion the feasibility of not doing HPR and reforming that program.
- a. Morgan: I would say that you have to sperate those two issues. The issue of how it is students might experience that class and is the department and the faculty being responsive to the feedback they're getting is a different question than is that class going to be in gen ed. The way you said it, you might not mean it, is that the reason it shouldn't be in gen ed. Which would be a very different kind of conversation than to say is it reasonable that every student has to take a health class. So, one of the things that always worries me is a category in gen ed where there aren't any choices. One of the things that kind of funky about HPR 105 is that it's the dominant choice, but there are other choices. I don't want to make it sound like because the issue is the reason you don't like this one is because the experience of the students. That needs to happen through another mechanism, the gen ed mechanism. If the conversation is health shouldn't be required or



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math shouldn't be required or whatever it is, the best you can hope for is for you as a student body if you had some consensus about why these things might be true is to provide that information to the committee. When I said that the most contentious meetings I've ever been in in my life are gen ed committees, I would have to say equally strong is the idea that this is truly in the hands of faculty. Extraordinarily and appropriately so about the fact that that is their role as faculty is to craft curriculum. Which doesn't mean they won't listen, but the idea again is the fundamental concept of is wellness a component of the 42 credits. There are people who feel as strongly about that as someone like me might say you have to have a course that has some social science content. You can probably tell by the way I'm hedging, the chances of that not going forward would be extremely low, but I think there's a very important question about how that class is taught and how that information is getting filtered.

4. Becker: I was just wondering if you knew of any progress regarding the waive or student veterans getting waive of HPR 105? I tried to get this issue moving last year and I kind of got stalled.
 - a. Morgan: What I had heard is that they made progress on it, but I've got to tell you I don't know the end of the story. I know that conversation had gone to, the last thing I heard one of the problems was like mostly one size does not fit all.
 - b. Becker: Thank you. Like I said, it stalled last year, some student vets on their service transcripts have lists.
 - c. Morgan: All I knew is that they were – the ability to look at a transcript and make that call. But, the last thing that I had heard was that the HPR 105 chair had been receptive to saying, let's make this work. I think it was unclear who that person was who'd be making that call. I'll ask, and I'll get back.
5. Thering: First off, thanks for the candy. Secondly, I'm assuming you're kind of head of academic policy too per say in a sense or at least involved in it? So, I have two things that I have kind of found problematic just going through my experiences with classes. I wanted to know first off why you can't retake a class if you get a C, and secondly if there's a policy on the percent of grade before the withdrawal date? Because I've actually taken a class where one of my friends – there was like nothing in the gradebook before the withdrawal date and then they took a midterm and they bombed it and it was frustrating to them that they had no choice but to finish out the class.
 - a. Morgan: I'll answer the second question first, there isn't a policy on that. It is bad practice for a student not to know how they're doing in a class and in particular not to know early enough. And this isn't even about withdrawal this is about anything, so you know the whole thing about EagleAlert is the idea that the



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student knows early enough that they might be able to change their behavior. The idea is that either a student could drop or that behaviors could change or whatever. We only in general have a few I would say not even departments. A student should never be that far in the semester without something. Will there ever be a policy like that? No. They would never say that, I mean we barely got through the policy last year that they had to have a syllabus. To be fair, when I say that, 90% of the faculty said oh my god there are people without syllabi, which is also what they'd say about your thing, oh my gosh there are students that don't know how they're doing. That is something that students should be saying in their SEI's, it is a fair and appropriate feedback for faculty members because we know the best practice is, it's not a disciplinary choice. We know it's best for students to have some feedback. Now the C, alright so, the big problem with the C is, in general, in the old days – I'm talking 1857 alright, C's are passing. So, the general idea is that C's were passing. Now you and I all know that a D is passing, right? So, the concept is, well if you pass a class, why would you need to take it, alright. So, that's kind of conceptually. In terms of brass tacks, the reality is I don't see how we could ever do that at this campus and still serve students. Because if students started to retake classes by getting C's, not just D's, we couldn't physically come up with enough space for students. The people who would want to do that would say well I'm going to retake this until I get an A, for instance, every time we take that class, that's a spot from another student being able to take that class. We literally do not have the resources, that's like the most administrative answer I can give you. That is the reality. The concept of whether or not a C, you could retake it, is and I would suggest to you, and this sounds bitchy and I don't mean it this way is why would a C be different than a B then? Why do we have any of a retake policy, why can't we say take a class as many times as you want, right? That has to do a lot with the resources being able to offer it. The question about 'well why is it a C?', that's a passing question. A similar question is, those of us who are advisors, if a student comes and says, 'I'm thinking about flunking the next two exams so I will get a D and be able to retake it.' This is dreadful academic advice to a student. The idea of purposefully dropping a class is horrible. That's hypocritical to what I just said to you, right? Because you could say, "Well, Betsy but you just said that if you get a C, you couldn't retake it.", but I would still say to any student take your C and move on. There's almost nobody that looks at a single grade, it's almost unheard of to hear from a grad program that you must get this grade in this class to get in.

VI. General Student Body Open Forum



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VII. Officer Reports

a. President: Benjamin O’Connell

- i. O’Connell: So anyway, student employee minimum wage. We talked to Bob about it on Friday and we requested a cost analysis of what it would take to raise it up to \$8 an hour. So, we’ll know the facts and figures on that in a few weeks and we’ll have somebody present that to all of you. Riverside North is a cool new development that is going to be happening across from Festival kind of by the Oktoberfest grounds. There’s going to be a lot of cool new things happening in there, I don’t have a lot of time to go into all of it, but if you want we can meet after the meeting and I can tell you all about it. But, the reason that I bring it up is that there would be potential on the developer side for UWL to get involved and get like an apartment complex out there, but in this political climate that’s probably not going to happen. We’re going to be addressing things differently and looking for other ways to get involved unless things would drastically change in some way. A big part of this is that there is a need for housing for upperclassmen who don’t necessarily want to live in buildings that are not owned by UWL because there are a lot of landlords in this community that do not treat the tenants well and are not good with maintenance and stuff like that. What we will be doing is we’ll hopefully be requesting a market study from Res Life on housing for upperclassmen and finding better options than what currently exist. The Violence Prevention Resources Bill, we talked to Ingrid Peterson about it, she did not think that the language proposed by Shankland’s office was adequate so, I’m going to be suggesting some new language to Shankland’s office and we’ll find out some more with that soon. And then one quick last thing, Student Association Budget – figured I’d let you all know we made \$290 cuts in our requests so, get excited. If you want more information on that, I can share the document with you so you can see all the money we requested.

b. Vice President: Haley Jurecki

- i. Jurecki: I don’t have very many things, but LeaderShape, if there is anyone interested in doing leadership over spring break, we have the opportunity to send two students, possibly more if there’s space. Did anyone go to leadership here, does anyone want to share what it’s like or what it is? You have fifteen seconds, so in one sentence or less.
 1. Kallis: It’s a week of disconnecting from like the rest of the world and technology and you’re supposed to be connecting with yourself and the peers who are with you and finding out different leadership things.
 2. Jurecki: You meet some great people, you make great connections with other students. It’s great for networking, I really enjoyed it. I’ve only heard mostly positive from it. If you do want to do that, it is over spring break, no cost to you. It’s local, it’s like 40 minutes away at like a farm type thing, a summer camp-style type place. Just let me know if you are interested.
- ii. Jurecki: Robert’s rules refresher – so, we went through the bylaws and kind of re-hashed some of the things that were confusing last time. Remember, you’re only allowed to speak twice per agenda item and then first time speakers take priority, so if you see that you keep putting your placard up that someone else who hasn’t



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talked is going to be chosen first and then you'll eventually get to go. The second thing is – so we found out, this is new – you can only yield one time per agenda item and only to one person. And then just remember that you're addressing all of your comments to me. It's supposed to make conversation most efficient.

- c. Chief of Staff: Alfonso Gunaratnam
 - i. Gunaratnam: So, I really don't have much, I'll talk more about the faculty senate resolution during committee reports.
- d. State Affairs Director: Jack Lawlis
 - i. Lawlis: We had a great debate yesterday night, and we also have another upcoming debate for the 3rd congressional district on the 30th of October in the Cleary Center at 7 p.m. between Ron Kind and Steve Toft. It's really exciting actually, I encourage all of you to go. We have a set date for the lobbying trip to Madison, and that'll be November 15th and the main topics we're focusing on at the moment are the upcoming budget and also refinancing student loans. We'll be meeting with the universities and college's committees and joint finance committee and meet with a lot of the senators there or their staffers as well as the house reps. Should be really exciting, if you do want to be involved in that, feel free to let myself know or Ben. Also, you might have seen that I sent all of you an email concerning the upcoming election, that's specifically referencing kind of a request that I got from Teri Lehrke who is the city clerk, for volunteers for our polling place specifically, other polling places, we need an increased amount of workers and helpers. I know Sabah signed up for a bunch of hours, but you don't need to be, you only have to do like 2 or 3. All you need to do is let Teri know when you can work, it takes 1 hour of training, and if we get enough interest, she'll even come on campus and do it. It's really helpful, a really great way to be involved. You can either work as a registration official or as a greeter, it's going to be really fun. That's all I have.
- e. Local Affairs Director: Jake Seifert
 - i. Seifert: First thing, this past week I went to a couple different neighborhood association meetings. Basically, just as kind of showing that there are students living in these neighborhoods. Positive signs at all of them, especially with the GENA folks, they're looking forward to working with the stuff in the future with housing and sharing my opinion on parking. Signs are looking good there. Additionally, if you do live in the GENA neighborhood, which extends to this side of West Ave., if you do live there, they are doing elections for their executive board, and they have had students on their board in the past. If that's something that interests you, talk to me and I can get you talking to the right people about that. Second thing, next Tuesday, October 30th, before the debate starts is the meeting of the JNA committee, which is the committee that resolutions need to clear before they reach city council. At this meeting, they're going to be discussing legislation proposed by councilman Weaver, that will block housing proposal. Housing has not gone into effect, if this resolution passes, it will not go into effect, if it fails, it will go into effect. During this meeting, they do have public comment so, if this is something that speaks to you, please come out, it's at 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers at city hall
- f. Inclusivity Director: Sita Agterberg



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- i. Agterberg: So, there have been 66 hate/bias incidents reported. I'm going to be honest, I missed the DOC meeting, our cabinet meeting went a little long, but I will be there next time. And then, November 29th will be a cultural appreciation fashion show that all the MSO's are going to be putting on.
- g. Public Relations Director: Lucas Marinack
 - i. Marinack: So, the next student engagement outreach event I guess that we're going to be doing is – it's not slices with the senators this year – we're mixing it up, we're doing 'Cider with the Senators', it's going to be in the Hall of Nations in Centennial. The idea is that a lot of times people might not be wanting to eat lunch, but they might have time for some cider with us. That's going to be on November 20th, that's going to be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. So, hopefully not too many people will have left campus. I'll have more concrete times and updates in the next week or two. Going off that, community involvement, we just did Take Back the Night, a lot of senators, we were there. If you have any other community things like that that you think you'd like to see senate try to outreach, even if it's not the whole senate, let me know and we can try to collaborate how to get some people there and to publicize that. And then, Senate in 60 potentially, most likely, 70% sure, is going to be unveiled this week on Facebook giving the student body a 60 second wrap-up of what we do every week. One little housekeeping item, just make sure with like personal social media accounts, anything like that, just making sure we're professional. We're associated with student senate, so let's just make sure that we're publicly relating all the time. Just something to keep in mind for you. Thank you.
- h. Sustainability Director: Samantha Wolfe
 - i. Wolfe: Hi. So, just kind of following up on my email that I sent you guys, so there's a UW sustainability conference. Let me know, I've got to register you guys. Let me know if you'd like to go one or both days. We'll figure out housing and if you need a car, that kind of stuff. Also, if you have any donations for the Cove's food pantry, I have a box started and so far there are 9 items. Cool stuff. I will be collecting until, I think I said November 14th in the email.

VIII. Advisor Reports

- a. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Vitaliano Figueroa
 - i. Figueroa: I'll be talking about student affairs, developing a strategic plan, how can we inform people on what student affairs is as a division, a marketing campaign, developing an annual report, and a comprehensive ongoing process to hire people and make sure people have an exceptional ongoing experience to keep them. We'd like to engage with university as well as first year students. Also, the support recruitment of students and looking at student success. Something else we're looking at is a parent advisory board or a parent association. Other than that, more opportunities to connect with students in an informal way such as the breakfast of champions where we can meet with current student leaders and rising student leaders.
 - 1. Agterberg: I was just wondering, I know that the retention rate for professors of color and students of color is lower than that of white students. So, I was wondering what you are doing to try to improve that?
 - 2. Figueroa: Well, I don't know the specific numbers for retention in terms



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of faculty. In terms of achievement, when it comes to retention and graduation of students of color, that's something that is currently on our radar and we're trying to develop a couple of different support systems. We want to make sure that our students of color have the same opportunity to be just as successful as everyone else, because when we talk about an achievement gap, it's an opportunity for us to improve that.

IX. Committee Reports

- a. Boebel: The student org committee has been looking at grant requests and giving out money, we have \$22,000 and about 43,000 has been requested, high priority and how many students would be affected by these requests.
- b. Khan: The Ad Hoc for SEI's, different departments have different policies on how they collect and figure things out. We're also looking at the reliabilities of SEI's and their bias, as well as what's best practice and how we should use them. Also, for VPAC we talked about policy change, structure, and separation.
- c. Kallis: We'll be having a textbook rental meeting in a week or two. For the VPAC assessment committee, the subcommittee on assessment, we'll be doing focus groups and interviews, and surveys for incoming freshmen and seniors, also grad students. The Ad Hoc on constitutions is making great progress, we'll present at the end of the semester for the spring election. The search and screen committee is also moving forward.
- d. Lawlis: Leg affairs, we're looking a lot at student loan refinancing, 2 legislators attempting to reintroduce it, the Governor wishes to outsource the refinancing to a third party/ private entity. The joint regents committee was last week, regents will be coming on 6th and 7th, you can volunteer to greet the regents, I will send out to sign up if you are interested, all meetings are open.
- e. Silva: For AIDAC there will be a training meeting, the next meeting is Tuesday of next week, October 30th and then every Tuesday.
- f. Dietel: JCES, two Fridays ago chancellor Gow was there. The committee reports to him, we assign subcommittees and look for new one to create. We're looking at getting a professional sustainability director on campus. They're looking at funding the position how we green fund, make students pay through referendum. That's not going to work so we are trying to push it into a different direction.
- g. Gunaratnam: Faculty senate, faculty and staff are not having full capabilities on Canvas like they did during our pilot period, they are not happy with it. Professors want autonomy to create the classes how they want. The resolution we'll be talking about is to let them set it however they want. Hopefully we can suspend the two-week rule tonight.
- h. Jurecki: The international education committee met. Not too crazy of a committee, but they started reviewing faculty proposals for international faculty-led study abroad trips. So, usually during the summer or J-term. In case your curious about the international ed committee, because I didn't even know it existed until last week when they asked me to be on it, let me know if you are interested in joining.
- i. O'Connell: JPB met today, we talked about some things like the EAB that Betsy and I don't think is ready to be talked about yet. You'll probably hear more about that in the future, but it's just not relevant at all now for us. An update on strategic planning, and that also led into a greater discussion on what happens to the strategic plan. The university wants, we've been discussing how to further the strategic plan in the event that there wouldn't necessarily be a position for it.



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X. Organizational Reports

- a. Gunaratnam: Students for a Free Tibet, or SFT, we've been almost hanging by a thread for the past two years. Honestly, like we're barely an org right now, we have around 4 or 5 people. It's sad, we've been trying, me and my roommate who is co-chair, have been trying to find other students who would be interested. Just a brief update if you don't know what's going on in Tibet, basically, they don't have a lot of basic liberties. They can't speak their own language, practice their own religion, they can't show any signs or praise or any symbols supporting the Dali Lama. If they do, they are incarcerated and punished, and a lot of them have just disappeared or have been abducted by the Chinese government. It's supposed to be a huge country, but it's a tiny little state now because of a lot of other governmental action. Basically, we just try to raise awareness on the issue as much as we can. We usually bring in speakers every fall, we have galleries, hundreds of Tibetans have self-immolated, they literally light themselves on fire in form of protest against the Chinese government. It's really sad what's going on, we don't have a lot of members. If you know anyone what might be interested, please direct them to me.
 - i. Agterberg: Where do you meet?
 - ii. Gunaratnam: We meet on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in room 2200 in Centennial.

XI. Unfinished Business

- a. SA1819-011: Resolution Changing Privacy Standards for Students in WINGS
 - i. Kallis: I'm assuming all of you read the meeting materials that were sent out, so you know the changes I made. I'm just going to brief you, it's different because I got more information, not only from staff I know, but also from our lovely provost in the room. To clarify, social security number and your birthday are information that is not always given to faculty or staff who have access to your WINGS account. Not even our lovely provost can see my birthday, which is a fun fact we found out the other day. That information is held to a different level of security than other information, but as we discussed, there is other information of yours that not everybody wants everybody else to have access to including your grades, class schedule, directory information was kind of the minutiae of what we kind of ended up talking about. So, the solution that I thought of is that upon request, when approved by the student faculty and staff can have access to directory information, class schedule, and grades. This means that who you're working with gets your information. Who you are not working with does not get that information. I like that solution, I ran it by some folks I know and that sounded good to them. Your social security number is held to the highest level of security out of all of the things we have, so that is not out there. This is my solution, I would like to hear your opinions.
 1. Horstman: I think that the resolution, now rewritten, it really hit on a lot of the points that we discussed a couple weeks ago. It really hits on some real concerns and I think it's a good resolution. The only question I have, and I'll yield to Senator Kallis, but was there any new information on StarRes? I'm guessing that would be a separate resolution, but I was just curious if there was any new information on that as well.
 - a. Kallis: That would be a separate resolution and a separate issue. StarRes, a program that's used by our residence halls, in my opinion, WINGS is a separate program used for a different thing



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that StarRes. StarRes is only used by ResLife faculty, admin, and staff don't have access to StarRes from what I know about it, that would be a separate issue. I am having a conversation on Friday and I was planning on bringing it up in that space between those folks. I was going to talk to them one on one and get some feedback. It is something that is still on my radar and if it's on other folks radar, I would love to work with you.

- ii. Call to question
 - 1. Passed
 - iii. Passed
- XII. New Business
- a. SA1819-014: Resolution Approving Student Court Justice Nomination
 - i. O'Connell: This resolution is to approve Ben Ames as a new student court justice. This is actually become very timely because one of the court justices resigned so they're only down to three and so if we waive the two-week rule for this one, I and the court would be very appreciative so that they could get on to the work that they have on their slate.
 - 1. Dietel: I would just like to say that I know Ben on a personal level and he is a really smart, driven, really nice guy and I think that he's a really great candidate for this position and I don't see any reason why we can't confirm him tonight. He is definitely qualified for this position.
 - ii. Woodmansee: *I move to suspend 2-week rule/ Kallis*
 - 1. Passed
 - iii. Passed
 - b. SA1819-015: Resolution Supporting Faculty Senate Regarding the Implementation of the Canvas System in UW Institutions
 - i. Gunaratnam: I kind of described it in the committee report, basically, professors are feeling they don't have the power to create their class structures as they desire. It's really hindering their ability to do their job well.
 - 1. Jurecki: I think the sentiment is that when they originally discussed the implementation of Canvas, a lot of the way that faculty sees – how they set it up for classes to utilize it – they don't have those same options now due to the regents set for the program, so this resolution is just saying can we have access back to those.
 - ii. Gunaratnam: Basically, like during the pilot program, they were given like full access to Canvas and all of its capabilities, and they are not getting what was promised to us initially. So, basically faculty senate wrote a resolution asking for that back and we are just endorsing them, so they can go to systems with both resolutions.
 - 1. Khan: Do you know why they added restrictions?
 - a. Gunaratnam: UW Systems basically wanted a uniform system in place – uniform environment as they describe it – across the UW System schools. I forgot why it doesn't apply to Madison.
 - 2. Horstman: After reading the resolution, it seems like this is a real concern for faculty and if this is hindering them from doing their job, then it's probably going to hinder our education in some ways so, I feel



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like it's a good idea to back them with this resolution so we can send them both – the faculty and the student resolution – to the regents. At least to show that we support the faculty.

3. Fulop: On a personal note, I know that my accounting professor has been having a lot of trouble with this. I took a quiz and only got one question wrong, but the Canvas system marked all of my questions as a zero, so I understand that the Canvas system has been problematic.
4. Morales: Kind of going off of the previous senator's comments, I had to do two discussion posts due at midnight, I was put in the wrong group. The professor didn't know how to move me to the right discussion group and in moving me deleted about two hours-worth of work that I did resulting in me having to redo the work and I was not the only student that had that problem. So, it seems like a lot of my professors that are using it are pretty upset with the system and most would rather just be using D2L.
- iii. Jurecki: And just a reminder with speaking with the faculty senate chair, they want to send it out by this Friday. They only just approved this this past Thursday, which is why we're getting it now.
- iv. Morales: *I move to suspend the 2-week rule/Kallis*
 1. Passed
 - v. Passed
- c. SA1819-016: Resolution Ensuring Freed of Speech and Association at UWL
 - i. Polony: Hello everyone. As we know, it is free speech week, so we thought it proper – senator Micech and I – as we've heard from many students that they continue to be worried about voicing their opinion of anything on campus, even off campus, due to the current political climate across the U.S. Today, just recently, the ACLU came out with a report that over 100 colleges were hiring companies to monitor student's Facebooks and take disciplinary action against them. Obviously, that is not happening here right now, but I think it would be a very good statement for us as a student senate to include in the new constitution that will soon come about that we will defend all student's rights of free speech whether that be you know wanting to take a kneel during the national anthem to protest anything that feels wrong in our country, wearing a MAGA hat around campus, or even standing by the clock tower preaching about the flying spaghetti monster, or anything a student wishes to do. So, that is why we created this resolution, and I hope you all consider it.
 1. Becker: According to Article 2, Section 5 of the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse constitution, and I quote it says, "This article of certain rights shall not deny other rights pertaining to our members of the UWL Student Association.", which is all of the university, all students at the university, not specifically enumerated here. So, what that means is that your freedom of speech is already guaranteed to you by the constitution of the United States of America, so you have these rights and are not being censored on this university. I just wanted to know, I'll yield to you after this, what really motivated you to write this resolution?
 - a. Polony: So, obviously, as of right now, this university has not



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done anything inherently to invalidate our freedom of speech. However, there is obviously present across the U.S. for it and it would be a good thing, especially in honor of free speech week, to put down specifically in the constitution that we will guarantee freedom of speech in all students even though this says that all students you know rights that are not enumerated, the fact that other universities have done it. It gives leeway for the university or faculty or teachers or anyone at any point in time to use that as an excuse to discipline a student or their freedom of speech

2. Kallis: Previously, I said we had a meeting, the Ad Hoc constitution committee, and we had some discussion about this resolution and as part of the work that I know I've done and I know some other folks have done, working on the constitution over the last – has it been a year? Oh my – we're almost at our one year working on this constitution and part of that was involving us and myself personally going and reading every single UW System constitution, and let me tell you some of them are long. An example, if you don't know, UW Eau Claire, their student senate has 104-page long bylaws. It's an interesting document, if you want to go read it, they have a lot of procedures very detailed-ly laid out. This is including the Associated Students of Madison, the UW Stout Student Government, all of the schools in the system, and no other constitution – I even went back over my six favorites, if you want to know my six favorites, we can talk later – no other document has it enumerated that freedom of speech association is protected on our university because they have a limitations clause, which can be kind of paralleled to some other constitutions that our country uses. And, while I love freedom of speech because it gives me the right to say whatever, I feel like I need to say I do not believe that it has to be enumerated within our document to know that we believe in it because part of what we're doing – promoting, protecting, and defending – student's rights for shared governance is exactly freedom of speech. It's our freedom within our colleges, within our university to be able to create policy, to be able to have discussions with our administrators, our faculty, our staff and our peers about what we're doing on this campus. So, I feel like I've also read 36095, if you want to it's a lovely state statute, interesting how it's changed over the years, but within that as well is further enumerated that you have a right as a student to change the way governance works in your university. I feel like by the very nature of our body we have freedom of speech so, I do not feel like it would do us justice to what we do to enumerate that we will protect and promote diversity of thought and opinions because convening this body we are doing that. By having spots for our MSOs and diversity organizations, for our veterans and all of our colleges having representation, we are already doing that. I feel like by restating it, it's just being redundant and that's what our editing is doing, taking out redundancies, making our constitution concise. I don't



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support this resolution because we're already doing it.

3. Norrington: In reading this, I thought about how this will affect students that are often forgotten about on this campus, students of color, and campus climate's role on this campus as well, being where you report hate and bias. I feel like one of the main things that this would do is increase the number of hate and bias reports because what the hate and bias response team does is would be considered retaliation from the university. Having conversations with students about beliefs that may harm other students like lives and how they feel on this campus and being here. I also do not support this because I feel as though it will affect students of color, differently abled students, and other marginalized identities in a very negative way.
4. Boebel: I just had a couple questions about the resolution, if I could address it to the authors. One of the things that I was looking at when I was looking this over was specifically the third whereas regarding the freedom of association being violated through compelling students to partake in politically charged classes and activities, I was just wondering if you could expand upon your meaning of that, whether it be the general education curriculum generally or are there specific classes where you or your constituents have reached out to you as being politically charged and therefore somehow violating their first amendment right?
 - a. Micech: Alright, well, one to answer that is my roommate who is at Angel with me, he is currently in a race class right now and I don't know what the professor's name is, but she keeps on bashing in terms of if you don't think like her then you're just inferior. So, he as a result of this, he doesn't go to that class anymore, he skips out and he is a liberal but he doesn't want to go to this class because of this big lady saying that you know white people are the devil and stuff like that and it hurts me because all white people are not the devil and really to paint the brush over my ethnicity and race it hurts me. So, I hope that answers your question in a way.
 - b. Boebel: I guess going to that, I won't even get into really the point of ERS classes generally because it seems that your roommate could potentially really benefit from being in that class. But, I actually looked over the general education requirements and I'm guessing what you mean by politically charged is classes that deal with women and people of color and there's actually a lot of ways with the general education requirements – I'm just assuming that's what you mean by compelling, I don't know why you'd be compelled to take a class if it's not necessary to graduate. A couple of the classes, for example, the general education requirement, the third one – minority cultures, you can fulfil that one with classes like History of Jazz Culture, Women in the U.S. Economy – just the history of women in in the workforce in this country so I would



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think that not particularly politically charged classes. For the fourth requirement, multicultural studies/ international studies, although there are those WGS and ERS classes that you may feel are politically charged, others would just feel that that's just learning about other people, you can fulfil that with classes like Macroeconomics, World Music, Comparative Politics, classes that you may not necessarily see as politically charged coming from there. I guess I would be wondering, keeping this in what impact that would then have on the general education requirement. I guess I'm just skeptical generally about the impact of this resolution to begin with because as I see it, it's a resolution telling a committee to do something that they just then bring back to us and so, I don't really see this resolution as doing anything to protect or promote free speech because it's just recommending to the committee that they add this part in and then we have to bring this back again as another resolution to be voted upon. I guess I'm just confused about the intent or the impact that you think the resolution would have. As I read it, I don't see it as doing anything.

5. Silva: I completely agree with basically everybody that voiced their opinion at this point. I don't agree with this, it's redundant. I don't see why we need to put it in again, especially after all that work that Dani has put in over the last year. Just the fact that it's redundant, I think it just really doesn't do anything to put it in there in the first place.
6. Khan: I was just going to say that if your roommate is feeling attacked or if you are ever feeling uncomfortable with something that is going on in a class, there is a hate and bias, you can fill out an incident report, you can talk to the chair or the head of the department if you don't want to address them directly. There are a couple of channels if you don't feel comfortable in class. I don't know how this resolution would help your roommate?
7. Polony: So, just to quickly touch on everything that was discussed, obviously I've heard a pretty big argument here, though I would counter that with simply although we have the limitations clause, we feel that freedom of speech association is such an important principle, especially in this country that to simply give it on the section and make it clear that we are giving those rights is something that would be beneficial and important. After all, if the U.S. constitution makes a case to, as an American we should follow by example. And there's nothing wrong with giving precedent, even though every UW constitution doesn't mention it, I feel there's nothing wrong with precedent that we are always protecting free speech. And then to the marginalized group part, I would simply I would make two points. One being that, number one I think that it would be very, I don't know if it would really bring out that many people that want to make hate speech or try to make marginalized groups feel more down. However, if people do come out because of this, then I do think



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that it is something that is actually beneficial because then we know exactly who those people are and instead of using the university as force to punish them, we as students will take action and simply shun them out and put them aside for making those hateful comments or anything. And the second point I have to make, saying simply that the United States Supreme Court has continuously stated that hate speech is a constitutionally protected free speech. And the third, politically charged classes and other examples I've given is in WGS 100. Me and many other fellow students, the teachers continuously try to push their own political agendas such as saying that voter ID laws are punitive no matter what people think of voter ID laws for a teacher to try to force their political agenda on you. It's wrong and it's kind of violating our freedom of association since we're forced to take those classes, but then we have to listen to the political police of other people when we're trying to spend thousands of dollars to learn something not hear those political viewpoints.

8. Thering: I guess I don't find it legit to – if this is the path that you are trying to take, I don't necessarily think that only including free speech – like you might as well just cite the whole constitution in the bylaws essentially is what I'm getting from it. It seems like it's becoming more of a priority that freedom of speech and association is prioritized over other rights and I'm wondering where that itself is coming from, so I'd like to yield to the authors on that.
 - a. Polony: So, I don't think that I entirely understood the last part of the questions with prioritizing it, I will say obviously the U.S. constitution does make a point of making it in the first amendment because it is one of the most important parts. I mean if we want to put the whole U.S. constitution, I'm not opposed.
 - b. Thering: I guess my question was just why this right per say over other ones. It seems to me that you yourselves value the constitution just as much as anyone else so why just this one, what is bringing just this freedom of association to the surface?
 - c. Polony: Mainly because we have seen across the county in the president's militia, student's rights on college campuses have been violated, I'm not saying that's ever gonna happen here or that it is happening here. However, I feel that it's better to be safe than sorry to simply show that we are not ever going to allow other colleges to violate any students right to free speech no matter their beliefs.
9. Moralez: I'm just a little confused as to how is it that freedom of association is being violated if you are given the opinions of a professor. And is the opinion of a professor not their freedom of speech? I feel like there are a lot of layers to this, I mean are the authors trying to limit the freedom of speech of professors that they don't agree with? This gets really muddy and that's where the redundancy comes in. The regents just passed this regent policy 421 which most departments on UW campuses,



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they have already had rules and regulations in place that protect freedom of speech and then the regent policy 421 it was just another rendition of that, so why do we have rendition after rendition of freedom of speech when I feel like it just confuses people even more and more as to who gets freedom of speech. Could you elaborate just to the professor's freedom of speech and are professors not allowed to have their own opinions in the classroom?

- a. Polony: So, to answer that, this resolution obviously will probably not have an effect on classes and professors as that is not something that we can do in student senate. It simply saying that like you said about redundancy with all these bodies making new statements. This is simply our way of stating to students on campus that their freedom of speech is not obviously against. The regent's policy obviously refers to all UWL schools, it says that as a student on UWL's campus you will not be disciplined or if you are we will stand up for you in support of whatever speech you choose to use on campus.
 - b. Moralez: The regent policy 421 says that people that infringe on other people's freedom of speech rights will be disciplined. So, people that are already infringed on the rights of others and the freedom of speech through the regent policy 421 should be disciplined in the university. I mean that's already in place which is back to my point, I think that this is extremely redundant
10. Horstman: First of all, I'd just like to echo all of the past comments that have been made, whether it be redundancy, Senator Khan's comment about how if certain individuals they feel like there's hate or bias that there is the proper route that they can go to and I just want to go to the author's comments about them taking a WGS 100 class. Like Senator Boebel said, there are other gen ed classes that they are able to take. Students don't have to take certain classes, there is a broad spectrum of classes that are available for every section of general education classes. I think that this is redundant, I think that we as a senate we don't need to add this new section to the constitution as it is already in place at multiple levels as has been said.
11. Dietel: I just have a question and I can yield to the authors after, in the fourth whereas they state that 'we have heard these concerns from many students', so I just – I mean they obviously heard from enough and felt strongly enough that this was a concern on the entire campus, they thought it was a big enough issue to bring it to the senate floor, so I just want to yield to the authors to ask who are these many students?
- a. Polony: So, for starters, these many students do come in the form that we have an entire organization with over 100 students that have signed up in this membership that are sponsoring this resolution that feel that their freedom of speech is not entirely protected on campus and in addition to that we have many additional friends and people we've talked to on campus who



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- have simply stated that they just don't feel that their in a safe enough environment to voice their different views, whether it be inside of the classroom or outside of the classroom for fear that they are going to be shut out by the professor of that class or in their groups.
- b. Dietel: I would just like to add that I think by way of the sponsor that is on this resolution and the comments from the authors, that this specific resolution is politically motivated and politically charged by itself and so I just want to put that out there and say that that is my grievance with the resolution and that I don't support it for this reason because it is not the proper channel and we already have other channels at work to continue to secure free speech.
12. Woodmansee: I'm just a little confused from the author's comments previously made that students feel that they have been shunned out whereas a few comments before they said that those who voice inadequate opinions will be shunned out? I'm just confused why they are shunning sometimes but not other times, I guess it seems to be like a personal belief of when they can be shunned versus when they can't.
 13. Becker: Regarding the fourth whereas, it says may students have raised concerns about their ability to speak up for their beliefs, what are these beliefs? I want to yield to the authors, like give some examples.
 - a. Micech: Conservative beliefs, so being pro-NRA, pro-life, just really conservative principles that these students hold dearly to themselves. Really college campuses – and I'm going political here – but the liberals you know this is your institution here and I can speak to you over there because I know you're in the College Democrats.
 - b. Becker: One more question, what is this fear of retaliation? I just don't get it. I just want to reiterate that it's illegal for a professor to retaliate against a student for political speech.
 14. Neilson: I also just want to echo what Senator Dietel said about this resolution having the appearance of being politically charged and I would like to point out that student senate is meant to remain an impartial institution, I think this kind of violates that value.
 15. Boebel: To clarify, I am the chair of the College Democrats, big secret I'm sure to everyone in this room. Going off of what Senator Neilson said, I think it's important to recognize that this is a nonpartisan body. As chair of the College Democrats, there have been lots of resolutions that I would say all of our members have supported, but we avoid taking a stance officially and sponsoring a resolution to keep that nonpartisanship and not bring that into this specifically nonpartisan body. While I realize that I do have my own political beliefs, there are something that I keep out of here. My specific party beliefs. Going off of what everyone else has said, this is completely redundant. Even the authors themselves said that this wouldn't have an effect on classes here at UWL which leads me



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to believe there might be a different intent to this legislation. There are lots of ways that one could go about promoting free speech here on campus, whether it be even just joining the Ad Hoc committee itself and putting that in there, looking over different policies on campaigning, publicity, posting and what have you. I think there are a lot of ways you could go about promoting free speech, but like everyone else, we seem to have a pretty solid consensus here, this resolution isn't going to be supporting free speech, I think what this resolution does is makes the potential for a really cool clickbait headline saying UWL students don't support free speech when in reality we just support common sense legislation that isn't going to be here just wasting our time to create debate within ourselves that ultimately is going to have no positive affect on the students of this campus.

16. Soeder: I just kind of wanted to add to the discussion a bit surrounding like the teachers and stuff, I feel like with this committee there could possibly be some impedances on what some of the teachers can say. We have a lot of facts that maybe the teachers want to talk about where there is some political-ness to those sides and I wouldn't want those facts to not be coming out in their teaching just because they have some kind of political side.
17. Norrington: About your comment about hate speech and how the USA protects that. One of the things that UWL likes to promote is that 'hate is not a UWL value' and I don't think it's fair to the marginalized identities on this campus to say that their experiences don't matter because that I what I got from what was said that marginalized identifying students on campus their uncomfortability doesn't matter and as a student association our job is to represent all students, I don't think that represents all students because there are not a lot of us, but there are a lot of students of color who already don't feel comfortable and what you're saying these students are experiencing they have been experiencing their entire lives. I really want to know what the author's thoughts are on that and if they even considered that maybe this would have such a negative impact on the enrollment of marginalized identities, the things that UWL likes to promote, and students that don't share the beliefs of the orgs that they are representing.
 - a. Polony: So, number one, I would like to say that I think that lots of words that never even came out of my mouth were mentioned. The only things I've ever said were that and I stand by are that, number one, hate speech is a form of free speech and again as stated by the United State Supreme Court and simply what I said is that if there are students on campus who wish to voice hate speech comments then the great thing about free speech is other students, which is the majority of the student body I am sure, can then use their free speech to shun them out and voice against their hate. In total what we are doing in that regard, instead of trying to use force, to simply quiet down people who actually



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have hate in their hearts we can actually use society and as students in general to educate those students on why they are wrong or shun them out if need be.

18. Kallis: This document references the regent policy 421 on commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression and one of the points that was made by the policy is that access to UW institutions for free speech and expression shall incur in the limits within reasonable viewpoint, neutral in content, neutral in time, place, manner, and expression as provisions of chapter UW Systems use of university facilities. And I think something to mention there that's important is that viewpoint neutral and content neutral, not all university bodies operate under the free viewpoint neutrality. Some of them do, some of them have it enumerated. I don't think we can leave our viewpoints at the door, I think that a lot of who I am is structured by my viewpoint and by the people that I represent and so I think that if this document is trying to add to our document the enumeration of the freedom of speech, and the enumeration of those rights that we already very lengthily said we have, I don't think it's making a good enough point. We mentioned what this could do in this enumerated type of document where would it go? I think just saying that we're going to do something isn't doing a lot. We say we're going to do things all the time, we don't mandate ourselves to do things. I don't think this has teeth in it to do anything. I think discussion on freedom of expression and free speech, when it comes to faculty, when it comes to this institution and our peers, it happens on a level higher than ours and our university and our board of regents, they have a code of ethics, that we hire our people that they get to run our institutions by which is why they got to pass a commitment to academic freedom and freedom of expression which in its scope it says that it covers. Administration, staff, and students at all UW institutions so, for operating under the cones of different institutions we abide by, we already abide by this. I feel like this discussion has gone a lot of other ways and hasn't really pointed to what this is trying to say. I'm going to repeat myself, I think we protect freedom of speech enough by forming a body, I don't think we need to enumerate it. *I move to end discussion/ Becker*

- a. Passed

XIII. Discussion

XIV. Announcements

- a. Boebel: The College Democrats are hosting an event next week, Tammy Baldwin will be here this Tuesday in this room at 2:00 p.m., she is running for U.S. Senate. You can RSVP to our Facebook event if you are interested.
- b. Cvancara. LASO will be playing the movie Coco on October 29th in Centennial for free, and there will be a Dia De Los Muertos event in the Hall of Nations on the 31st from 1 to 3 p.m.
- c. Khan: ALANA is hosting a menstrual product drive November 5th through the 9th. There will be boxes in various locations on campus. Try to buy pads if you donate, New



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Horizons would rather have those.

- d. Horstman: Just a reminder about the debate on Tuesday for the 3rd district between Ron Kind and Steve Toft. It will be at 7 p.m. in the Cleary Center on campus.
- e. Cayo: The 7 Rivers LGBT Connection is the center right downtown in La Crosse, it's putting together a rally in response to our presidential administration putting out a memo to redefine gender. If people would like to show up, it's going to be on October 30th from 4-6 will be about voting resources and then from 6 to 7, there will be the support rally.
- f. Norrington: The LAN party will be February 29th, any constituents that would like to help out are welcome, table top gaming will also be there. We'd always like to see more people come so we can have bigger tournaments. For example, we have a SMASH tournament. Last year it was on Wii U. Keep it on radar or email me if you are interested.
- g. Neilson: The Public Advocacy Certificate is continuing to push through. Thank you for all of your input.
- h. Micech: On November 12th, Ben Shapiro will be at UW Milwaukee. Let me know if you are interested in going.

XV. Adjournment

- a. Becker/McLain
- b. 8:22 p.m.