



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE
STUDENT ASSOCIATION
2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

SA1819-007: Resolution Approving Referendum Language for Campus-wide Ban on Distribution of Plastic Straws

DATE: September 18th, 2018

AUTHOR(S): Samantha Wolfe & Haley Jurecki

SPONSOR(S): Tyler Silva, Harold Soeder, Abigail Kettinger, Annika Lasee, Victoria Dietel, Dana Nielsen, Jess Nussbaum, Bennett Therig, Cate Wiza, Dylan Shock, Olivia Woodmansee, Alex Becker

WHEREAS, it is stated in UWL Student Senate’s mission statement that “...Student Senate exists to provide a student voice by advocating for student rights and responsibilities...;” and

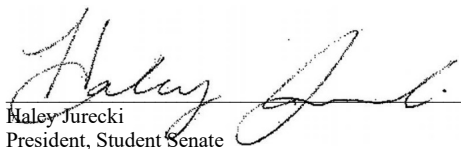
WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Student Senate to collect student opinion on issues directly pertaining to the daily conveniences of student lives on the UWL campus; and

WHEREAS, a student referendum will be the most effective and far-reaching method to gather student opinion on a permanent campus-wide straw ban, and

WHEREAS, Americans use 500 million straws everyday (NPS 2018), and straws account for 0.025% of plastic waste reaching the ocean (Gibbens 2018); and

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse is located sixteen (16) city blocks from the Mississippi River which reaches its end in the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, because straws are made with a resin 5 chemical called polypropylene, they are very rarely accepted by recycling centers, and never if they are contaminated with food or drink; and


Haley Jurecki
President, Student Senate
Vice President, Student Association

9-26-2018
Date


Benjamin O'Connell
President, Student Association

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WHEREAS, nation-wide campaigns are promoting the mission, such as the National Park Service’s Be Straw Free, National Wildlife Federations’ One Less Straw Pledge campaign, The Last Plastic Straw, the hashtag trend #strawssuck, etc...; and

WHEREAS, the national trend has pushed the phasing out of single-use plastic straws to explore more sustainable options. For example, Starbucks is phasing out the use of plastic straws by 2020, and McDonald’s announced it will ban straws in U.K. and Ireland locations (Gibbens 2018).

WHEREAS, upon passage of this resolution that a referendum be completed during the Fall 2018 Student Association elections asking the UWL student body if they approve of the campus-wide ban on straws;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the referendum language on the Fall 2018 ballot shall read:

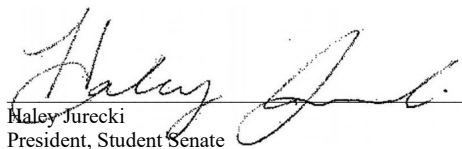
Americans use 500 million straws everyday (NPS 2018)¹, and straws account for 0.025% of plastic waste reaching the ocean (Gibbens 2018)². As a result of their flexibility and size, straws easily slip through filters, miss the garbage can, or escape garbage bags and end up in drainage systems that directly flow into our waterways such as the Mississippi River. Straws cannot be recycled in La Crosse county due to being made out of polypropylene and food contamination. UWL can do its part in reducing the use of single-use plastics by banning the distribution of plastic straws from dining centers on campus. However, they would still be able upon request.

Are you in support of this campus-wide ban?

Yes

No

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the complete text of this resolution be provided to the voters at the time of voting;


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Vice President, Student Association

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THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this shall be a binding vote and the results of the vote shall directly indicate the yes or no decision on the campus-wide ban of single-use plastic straws.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Haley Jurecki', written over a horizontal line.

Haley Jurecki
President, Student Senate
Vice President, Student Association

9-26-2018

Date

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Benjamin O'Connell', written over a horizontal line.

Benjamin O'Connell
President, Student Association

9-26-2018

Date