



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

SA1819-015: Resolution Supporting Faculty Senate Regarding the Implementation of the Canvas System in UW Institutions

DATE: 10/22/2018

AUTHOR(S): Alfonso Gunaratnam, Haley Jurecki

SPONSOR(S): Gunnar Horstman. Cate Wiza

WHEREAS, Chapter 36 of the Wisconsin Statutes states, “Subject to board policy the chancellors of the institutions in consultation with their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula...[,] determining academic standards and establishing grading systems” [36.09(3); emphasis added]; and

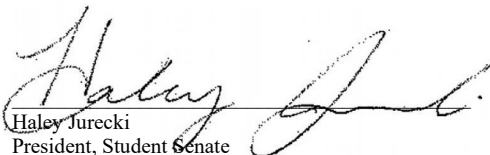
WHEREAS, Ch. 36 further states, “The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, and the chancellor of such institution, shall have the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities” [36.09(4)];

WHEREAS, Faculty Senate has expressed a growing dissatisfaction involving limitations on the new single Canvas system set in place by UW System;


WHEREAS, the new Canvas system interface is not delivering what was initially promised during the pilot program ran by UWL faculty and students;

WHEREAS, Canvas restricts faculty autonomy in designing class structure, instructing students effectively, and grading assignments in a timely manner thus conflicting with Ch. 36 of the Wisconsin State Statutes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse Student Association fully supports Faculty Senate’s Resolution “Regarding the Implementation of the Canvas System in UW Institutions.”


Haley Jurecki
President, Student Senate
Vice President, Student Association

10-24-2018
Date


Benjamin O'Connell
President, Student Association

10-24-2018
Date

**Resolution of the UW-La Crosse Faculty Senate
Regarding the Implementation of the Canvas System in UW Institutions
(DRAFT of 19 October 2018)**

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin System has adopted the Canvas learning management system software; and

WHEREAS the current Canvas environment is not true to the one when Canvas was piloted by faculty and students at UW-La Crosse, and so does not reflect the system that was implicitly promised; and

WHEREAS such software directly affects curricular design, delivery of instruction, and the means of evaluation and grading of students; and

WHEREAS Chapter 36 of Wisconsin Statutes states in part: “Subject to board policy the chancellors of the institutions *in consultation with* their faculties shall be responsible for designing curricula...[,] determining academic standards and establishing grading systems” [36.09(3); emphasis added] and “The faculty of each institution, subject to the responsibilities and powers of the board, the president, and the chancellor of such institution, shall have the primary responsibility for advising the chancellor regarding academic and educational activities” [36.09(4)]; and

WHEREAS the imposition of a single Canvas environment across all System schools removes control of academic standards and grading systems from the faculty of said schools, and is thus contrary to Wisconsin Statute; and

WHEREAS decisions regarding the single Canvas environment have been made on behalf of the University of Wisconsin System by individuals not identified as having said responsibility under Wisconsin Statute; and

WHEREAS restrictions on the Canvas environment hamper content delivery and instruction; and

WHEREAS restrictions on the Canvas environment have been incorrectly justified on the basis of misunderstandings of, among other things, FERPA law;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Faculty Senate of UW-La Crosse, that individual campuses and their faculty should at the earliest possible moment be given control of local Canvas environments, to configure as they deem best suits the needs of those campuses and their students.