



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

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## Student Senate Agenda

Date: **April 1, 2020**

Time and Location: **6:00pm WebEx**

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:07
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Agenda
    - i. Ericson: Motion to change agenda, add discussion point.
    - ii. Ozolins: Seconded.
    - iii. Lichtfuss: Call to question.  
APPROVED
    - iv. Packard: Just a short point maybe about grants for graduate students?
    - v. Nielsen: Let's bring that up during Sita's talking point.
  - b. Approval of Minutes  
APPROVED
- IV. Student Body Open Forum

Woodmansee: I currently serve on the UW System board of regents. I want to let everyone know if they have any questions regarding system wide policies during the COVID-19 situation, I am more than happy to answer them. Relating to refunds, pass fail, anything like that.
- V. Guest Speakers
- VI. Officer Reports
  - a. **President:** Sita Agterberg
    - i. Some administration stuff. First, SEI's will be suspended for this semester. You won't be getting an email about it at all. There is an option in feedback on Canvas. This isn't how classes should work, this would skew data. There's no good reason to have SEI's. As far as registration holds go, there will no longer be a registration hold up through the fall. You won't have to worry about not registering for classes.
  - b. **Vice President:** Dana Nielsen
    - i. Senate elections are coming up. If you want to run again, please do. I wanted to work on some rent stuff because a lot of students are worried about making rent during this time. I'm going to try to start these meeting ten minutes early. You can always email me if you want to talk or we can chat in those ten minutes.
  - c. **Chief of Staff:** Mark Moralez
    - i. I don't have any report.
  - d. **State Affairs Director:** Alex Becker
    - i. As of now, there's still an election next Tuesday for WI supreme court as well as the Presidential Primary. It's looking like it's going to go ahead and happen. If you haven't sent in an absentee ballot, please be safe. In regard to rent payments, please just contact your landlord. The governor placed a statewide ban on evictions.



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- e. **Local Affairs Director:** Bennett Thering
  - i. Speaking on to the elections. I was in contact with a council member. I got my absentee ballot today. It was the second of April to request an absentee ballot. If you're going to the polls in person, the city of La Crosse will have plexiglass up. I wanted to touch on the eviction thing. I talked to two councilwomen. They both gave me a similar answer. You physically can't really get kicked out if you're not making payments. They can still go through the legal process though so it may end up on your record. The answer I was given, was ask your parents for money or talk to you landlord about a payment plan. Maybe where you make smaller increments of payments. Not a lot of students can just easily ask their parents for money. I reached out to It Makes Cents and we're in the process of creating a general ice breaker to ask for this accommodation and also talk about a reasonable increment. The landlord can say no. If they do allow you to do this, they're doing this out of the kindness of their hearts. I hope your landlords are nice.
- f. **Inclusivity Director:** Faith Fisher
  - i. Absent.
- g. **Public Relations Director:** Olivia Ahnen
  - i. I don't really have a report but if you have intentions about running for the election but need help with the new digital space let me know.
- h. **Sustainability Director:** Sam Wolfe
  - i. By the end of this week, myself, Andrew, Jake, and Mary Beth will turn in the green fund grant for the Ozzy system. With that, I'm in the process of working on the bylaws and proposing that committee become permanent and part of senate.

## VII. Advisor Reports

- a. Riggerberg: There is a polling function in this, it may take a bit to work on. I wanted to clarify; we've been talking to the city clerk. We've talked about moving the election to the REC. She's looking at bringing four districts to the REC. It works better than the Union and is easier to disinfect than the Union. Let me know if you have questions. We're also working on dining refunds. I had concerns that we weren't doing it the way I wanted to. I think we're reimbursing students for if they have a lot of block meals left. We're working to get the food pantry up and running at Whitney. We had a lot of food donations after the move out and it was all scooped up very quickly.  
Ericson: Do you have any updates on how the census will work for us students?  
Riggerberg: We know how the off-campus people will be treated. We are trying to get this so people who would have been in the residence halls we would upload their information. The census said we can just upload the information available through FERPA. It will still count the people, but it will be an incomplete count. That seems better to me.

## VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Thering: SUFAC exec team met and regarding the refund, I know there's a lot of segregated fee refunds. The body as a whole has yet to discuss how the allocable funds will be dealt with. If that's going to fall into reserves. Or, in addition I talked to Jason who's the financial adviser for SUFAC. He said the nonallocable fees will not be in the form of a refund. There wouldn't be much to give back to students any who. The money



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we pay in seg fees. The nonallocable is what will be used anyway. That’s my understanding.

- b. McReavy: The Search and Screen for UC will be moving our date for April 24<sup>th</sup>. We’re still working to get out an offer.

IX. Organizational Reports

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

- a. SA1920-051: **Resolution to Approve Moving the 2020 Primary Elections from the Student Union to the Recreation Eagle Center (REC)**

- i. Nielsen: I need two sponsors.

- 1. Sponsors: Neader, Cayo, Hansen, Ott, McReavy

- Agterberg: Dr. Larry talked about this a little bit. Usually we have voting in the Union, but because the Union is so difficult to sanitize. The REC is easier to sanitize. It’s only about 84 students living on campus right now. A lot of places in La Crosse won’t be able to have people be able to vote their either. We were hoping to move a few other wards to the REC as well. We would need to suspend the two-week rule on this as well.

- Riggenberg: One of the wards is people who would vote in Myrick park, South La Crosse, and the public library is still having voting and I’m not sure what the fourth one will be.

- McLain: I move to suspend the two-week rule.

- Neader: Seconded.

- APPROVED

- Lee: Can we make an edit in the second Therefore.

- McLain: The fifth whereas has a typo. It should be “and”.

- Stock: The second whereas, it just says utmost. It should say “the utmost”.

- Neader: Call to question.

- McLain: Seconded.

- APPROVED

- b. SA1920-052: **Resolution to Appoint Students for Sustainability to Vacant Seat on Senate**

- i. Wolfe: I wanted to bring this resolution because I think Andrew has done a really good job representing Students for Sustainability and I’d like to change the bylaws to make it a permanent seat.

- 1. Sponsors: Cayo, Schock, Mendoza, McLain, Goodreau, Neader, Stock, Ganesh, Navoichick, Garcia, Lyon, Ericson, Xin, Hansen

- Stock: I’m going to echo what was said.

- Yuengst: Can I yield to regent Woodmansee?

- Woodmansee: I think that although this is a great resolution, and Andrew has done a lot. There are a couple issues. The main issue is there is a sustainability director on senate already. Also, they are supposed to move forward with those projects. Students for Sustainability is a student organization. SFS doesn’t fit within the standard org we have. It’s classified along the same lines of cheese club. I don’t think it’s always the person who served but rather what that seat means.



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Ericson: I do think that Students for Sustainability is an interesting position. It's in the group of those 200 other groups. Giving it a seat on senate without those others is interesting. Although there is a sustainability director on cabinet, they don't get to vote on green fund stuff.

Wolfe: As sustainability director, that position cannot vote. Also, to point out that SFS is represented on SSB. I think that having senate have that same standard, if it is the opinion of senate, it wouldn't be a precedent because SSB already does that as well.

Ericson: I think, what Sam said. It's important to have a voice that can vote on the floor.

Stock: As I was reading the chat, Dylan did ask what the current language for the bylaws is. I understand Olivia's concern and I think it's one worth exploring a little more. I think that would help us understand where that is coming from. Point of information.

Agterberg: Currently the bylaws say that every year we are giving a student org a chance to apply. Last year we had student embassy as a student organization. That was a yearlong thing so they could try it. It's a way to get different voices on senate every year.

Stock: Is that the original intent? Not to be a seat that's permanent for one org? I know from my experience on embassy that we didn't reapply because we restructured all of student embassy. We didn't need student senate any more with the direction it took with it. Is that the original intention?

Agterberg: I believe that was the original intention. One of the fears I have is that if we let this org have a seat, what's to say we won't have other orgs try to make the temporary seat permanent. Senate could become all orgs.

Stock: How many students are in SFS?

Woodmansee: Point of information, you can't choose an org based on how many numbers they have based on those numbers.

McReavy: I have more of a question for anyone who can answer this. The seat that SFS holds is intended to rotate for each org on a year-by-year basis. Right?

Agterberg: It was intentionally left as a blank seat so we could fill it every year with a different org. I believe that was the intent behind it.

McReavy: I yield to Olivia.

Woodmansee: From my understanding, one of the original purposes was it used to be the RHAC seat. They had two seats. One seat became the seat for ALAN and the other was considered an extra seat. The purpose was for it to remain vacant until a new org was ready to represent a certain group of senate that wasn't already represented. Until that point it was meant to be a rotating seat for different orgs to determine which organizations would best utilize the senate seat.

McReavy: With that in mind, I feel like if we granted that seat to anyone, I feel like we'd have to open the application to anyone.

Agterberg: Point of information, Dana and I had a meeting with Heidi about res halls and the shared governances and they are planning on putting on something different than student embassy. It's one group from each core team to create a larger group. I think you should keep that in mind.



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Ericson: If the problem is that SFS is an organization but we wanted to make a sustainability seat, we could make a sustainability seat that isn't related to SFS.  
Stock: I agree with senator Ericson. On senate, just to reiterate what Sita said before. One of the main thing's student embassy said was we gave a certain allowance to each res hall and their core teams to set up events and do things. That has been expanded even more. I haven't spoken with anyone specifically about a senator seat. There are other student orgs that would want to apply but I would suggest opening it up to other orgs to apply too.

Schock: Can you pull up the bylaws? I am not sure if this should remain vacant or if a new one needs to be replaced. How do people interpret this?

McReavy: I was wondering, I think I remember from last year that we had a discussion point about these bylaws. Is there any way we could look back at the resolutions from last year and see the intentions if those were recent changes from last year?

Nielsen: McReavy I slightly remember what you were talking about.

Agterberg: We have a senate archivist, and this is the type of thing we can use her for.

Woodmansee: All passed resolutions can be found on the UWL website. Last year the resolution was in favor of adding a vacant seat and changing the seat to a student embassy seat. Since the resolution failed, it became a vacant seat. In some respects, you can look back at the minutes to see the genesis of this decision. The main purpose was because of the R.A.S.O. seat. Since Student Embassy failed it became a vacant seat.

Nielsen: I'm going to start the speaking twice rule.

Packard: Since there's a lot of questions coming up and documents pertaining to this, we could maybe pause this for now. I move to end discussion.

McLain: Seconded.

APPROVED.

## XII. Discussion

### a. Pass/Fail: **Sita Agterberg**

- i. Agterberg: This has obviously been a pertinent issue within the last couple of weeks. One of the big things is that there shouldn't be any rush in this decision. It doesn't matter until the end of the semester. It shouldn't matter for people. It does matter but it shouldn't matter until the end. I should have answers to most of your questions. I know you all got the email from Natalie.

Nielsen: I sent you all student comments, please take a look at some point.

Goodreau: Originally when I was talking to my constituents about this they were on board. When I mentioned that it doesn't necessarily count towards the GPA and if it did count it would be a 2.0. A lot of students that are maybe making the petitions maybe don't know that. I think if more students knew about the whole GPA thing it might change their mind.

Stock: I understand that this is a pandemic that the entire world is dealing with. So, leniency is probably factored. Would it be the whole University is Pass/Fail or is it class by class basis? There are some classes that it makes sense for, but others could hurt a person's ability to apply to certain grad schools.



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Agterberg: So, if we were to model it after other UW schools. Madison has until eight days after the end of the semester to decide which classes you want to make Pass/Fail. If you're in an anat/phys class, you could take the A in that. We are smaller and it would be extremely difficult to figure out how to transfer over.

Stock: I would like that to be the system. I think it would be easier to explain why you chose a pass/fail in communication compared to anatomy. If there is some way to make that the current situation, I would appreciate that. I understand that that isn't necessarily feasible though.

McLain: I also had some people reach out to me. It also didn't seem very motivating to students if they are working and get an A but only really get a Pass. This could also put a lot of pressure on professors as well. They may have to do extra work only for it to be a pass in the end.

McReavy: I head people who felt like it was a good idea because they felt like it was difficult to be graded the same as in class. Others were upset because many grad schools don't even take pass/fail classes. Education majors have to take quite expensive tests in order to be certified. If a student didn't get the option of opting out because they may have had a high GPA in say math but then they actually got a pass and it doesn't count.

Neader: I talked to twenty-five constituents and seven were for any type and eighteen were against. The people against were against a blanket pass or fail. A huge concern I heard was people unable to boost their grade point. This could be hard for students on academic probation. One concern I think would apply to electing whether or not. For some students who don't think they're going to grad school, they may decide later on they're going to. I also heard about the not-fairness of some students working their hardest to get an A and others are just working to pass. Lastly, I want to voice support because some students are saying they won't lower the grade

Packard: Talking to other graduate students doesn't really work. A 3.0 is academic probation for a graduate student. Functionally, looking like it would be below that is odd. This was brought up by someone in particular. The military program where a certain GPA is required. The classes were not meant, or many of them weren't meant to be online. Now we're recognizing that there's no way to make the same type of class online. Something needs to be done. It would be nice if students could know what their options are soon. It will be an ongoing conversation.

Lee: Many concerns echo what other people said. Students were concerned with students would retake a class to boost their grade. Students prefer to have a choice whether they can opt in or opt out. This was also something where students who get scholarships were worried.

Agterberg: I talked to my professor a bit about it today. Faculty is against it too because he was talking how he really cares how his students do and if he grades their work, but they just don't care. This isn't just UWL. It's a worldwide



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pandemic. All universities are going through this at the same time. I'm sure that's something grad schools and future employers are going to be looking at. It's only one semester and you have three and a half years. I'm going to yield to Brooke Wait.

Wait: One of the things I wanted to mention was, because of my connection I don't know if it was mentioned or not. Being on campus allows me to focus a lot more. I like the idea that Madison and Milwaukee are going for where they're allowing kids to opt it and UWL is doing a good job trying to get resources out for students like me. I find it's a really good job that we're doing adapting. I feel like having the option to do a pass/fail add on for students like me with extra stress now that they aren't on campus.

Yuengst: A question I had brought up to me was if someone failed a class last semester and retook it, how would that look. If you were just going to take the pass would it boost your GPA or what?

Agterberg: It would get rid of the GPA. It wouldn't count but if a grad school needed the grade it would be a 2.0. As far as needing a C to get into the next class, does a pass count as that some people wondered?

Yuengst: My constituents basically listed off all of these concerns.

Stock: One other comment, for students who aren't necessarily stable. They may not have access to a computer or are unable to contribute to an online environment. I do think that should be taken into consideration. A Pass/fail system could help them. With libraries being closed right now, some people physically don't have access to materials. The system of pass/fail could be beneficial if optional.

McReavy: It seems like pass/fail would help some students and hurt others. I think I'm in favor of a pass/fail system where you can opt into it or you can just take a grade. I think it's unethical for other students to have to be worrying about their grades with all of the other things. I feel like we should do something.

Mclain: I like senator McReavy's idea of doing the opt in. I know grades aren't due until the end of the semester. I know for students who are stressed about their grades, they are stressing themselves out right now then finding out a month from now. We don't want people taking on too much. If we could get students to decide sooner. Then the professor could determine if the student is doing pass/fail then they don't have to grade as harsh.

Ericson: From the people I've talked to, many want the opt in. The best plan of action is to follow suit with what Milwaukee and Madison are doing.

Nader: If we would move toward an opt in. I would be for letting students choose up until eight days after class. I think it would be more motivating. It would be hard if you didn't know how much it's going to impact your grade. I guess the only other thing I wrote down was that in grad schools, they may not view students choosing a pass instead of choosing a grade very favorably. That could impact students down the road. I do support some kind of opt in.



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Agterberg: As a point of information, as far as grade scale, it depends on the professor. I don't know if we could departmentally change that.

Ganesh: Who gets the final say to make UWL pass/fail?

Agterberg: I think it's Betsy and faculty senate. But Betsy is ultimately in charge of this.

Cayo: I was wondering how you felt about putting this up to a referendum to students? I don't know if that's an option or not.

Nielsen: I think a referendum, I don't know how I feel about it. As you pointed out the voting percentage was so low. When we had the dome discussion with the dome it didn't go great.

Ott: I like Senator Cayo's idea of a referendum. But potentially a nonbinding referendum due to low voter turnout. Could be a good way to get a broader idea of how people feel.

McLain: Could we send out a poll with how many are essential workers, how many are having issues? I've had some students reach out to me too. That was really helpful too. Is there something to get a better idea of how many students are facing those extra issues? Just to get a better idea.

Neader: Just to go off that last point is a lot of instructors not being able to teach students online as effectively.

Lyon: Just speaking for my constituents I think that that it would be very beneficial for there to have an option of pass/fail later in the semester. Many of them are nervous about low GPA's this early in their college career, and I think having that pillow would be beneficial for easing nerves given how stressful the situation already is.

Moralez: It seems like we're going in circles at this point. I think right now we need answers from administration. We need a timeline. I personally don't think there's a need to continue this discussion right now. I'd like to move to end discussion.

Stock: Seconded.

## b. Virtual Class Issues: **Sita Agterberg**

Agterberg: I am in micro bio this semester and was scheduled to have class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I have lectures do Mondays and Wednesdays. I found this really problematic for students who have to work. It's only a four-hour window to take a quiz on Wednesdays. I want to hear if there are any other issues with that?

Ganesh: Today we had an online quiz and our professor, he has two sections he teaches on Wednesday. He would have had two hours he was teaching but he just moved it to one overlapping hour. Now some people are scheduled differently so that might not work. Only having one hour to even start a quiz is very difficult. We should talk to faculty senate.

Packard: RSEO grants won't be extended. It's similar to undergrad and creativity grants. It goes toward grants for students who need to do research. It's more so bricks and mortar, pieces of equipment, things for research. I'm not sure what will happen with that.





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As far as funds we can't use, it's upsetting. We can't do the ordering ourselves. That's a bind. It will not only delay graduation if research can't be completed. Now what's interesting about RSEO grants, that comes out of AIDAC and so in a way it is student money that is being talked about. Just to add on to the discussion about the difficulties from working at home. Luckily, I am getting enough WIFI off my phone but there may not be enough bandwidth. I can't be on the internet at all here.

Goodreau: I haven't had issues because my education professors are amazing but something helpful is, I am supposed to have class Monday and Wednesday mornings. Our professor posts things Monday and allows us to turn things in. That's just a suggestion.

Stock: I haven't had any experiences. My professors are recording any online lectures or classes they have. If a student isn't able to make that hour slot, they're able to look on canvas. I work at the YMCA and that's considered essential. It has been nice for me specifically to have access to those lectures.

Navoichick: I think any class with a super strict time limit is problematic. My English professor had a 3-4-page research paper due Tuesday which would have been due after Spring Break and he just then changed the date.

Lyon: I don't know about you guys but now some professors are saying they have higher expectations for us now on quizzes and tests. I feel like that's not the case for everyone. I want to voice my concern for that. It isn't fair to have higher expectations for that.

Nielson: I actually emailed someone about if we worked with a letter grade how that would be changed. You can appeal the grade you receive either to the professor or the department at the end of the semester. I'm hoping we can get a third party to review it. Hopefully when we talk with Natalie that's something, we can explore a bit more.

Neader: I wanted to voice the support, some of my professors are setting super loose deadlines. Something is due any time Wednesday and others any time Sunday. They're kind of scattered all over and sometimes don't pop up on the to do list on Canvas.

Ganesh: What if we broaden and had a general, 85 and above is an A. That's easier for staff to do instead of changing it at the end.

## XIII. Announcements

- a. Nielsen: Our Senator of the Month for March is someone who is dedicated and does their research. We look to them to bring up good points, they are supportive of other senators. So, congrats Dylan Schock. ApRiL FoOIS JoKe.  
Woodmansee: If anyone is a transfer student or knows one, I have a project for them it's a really quick process. Whether it be from or to UWL please have them contact me.

## XIV. Adjournment

- a. Ericson: Motion to end.
- b. Bouchard: Seconded.