



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: September 11, 2019

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

- I. Call to Order: 6:03pm**
- II. Roll Call: 22**
- III. Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Agenda: Motion Wiza, second Nielson, passed.**
 - b. Approval of Minutes: N/A**
- IV. Guest Speakers**

- a. Chancellor Joe Gow: Hello, good to be back with you. Its always hard to know how many new senators there are. It is a very rich tradition to collaborate with administration. I always love the invitation. I think the best way is to start asking questions.**

Nielson: earlier today I heard you talk about representative Murphy’s bill and was wondering what your thoughts on that bill are

Gow: There are several bills, and one right now we are eager to build is a residence hall. As you may know many of our students are living in overflow housing, so we have been asking to build a residence hall. If this bill were passed the difficulties would be several, and we would need have the student body voting in the affirmative. You can’t get half the people to turn out to vote. It would limit facilities, because half the money would be from student fees and we don’t know where the rest would come from. I applaud what you are considering.

Cecilia Hook: Iam wondering what if any plans you have involving the land recognition statement.

Gow: I am happy to answer that, and the sign downstairs is not accurate. The Native Americans were forcively removed before the university was here. I think Madison has established a very good statement in saying that they occupy the ancestral homeland. I would like something like that, but nobody has come down to talk to me about that, and will wait until they do.

Hook: NASA is hoping you make a meeting to discuss this further.

Gow: I will do that.

Faith: Ive asked this question before and I am wondering if there is more information about faculty and staff inclusivity training.

Gow: we have been talking about that for some time and we are always asking what can we do to make these resources happen? We were contacted saying there is a module that can be attached to a data privacy training program that we are rolling



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out. We expect this to be included for new hires. We are hoping to get to a point where everyone at UWL students included will take this sort of training as well.

Schock: I ask this because it's the most pressing thing as a senator this week. Do you think the current policy protects students against assault cases?

Gow: In a judicial process, there are certain procedures we have to follow. The one thing between all these procedures is due process, and a judgement on evidence. Is it more likely or not that it happen, and when you have people's memories, somebody will be innocent until proven guilty. I'll admit, the university dropped the ball on notification, and told them that cannot happen ever again. I apologized to the student. When it went to social media, I am going to be very careful saying this, but new information came forward and I am the person who has to say if we will re-open the investigation. That process is happening. The word on who is alleged is out in the world. This gets very challenging, and there was new information that led us to say that in their best interest and everyone's best interest for that person to be put on leave. I can assure you justice will be served. This is a very serious thing.

Schock: You said you have the power to open up the case. Would you consider opening up cases that also were prematurely closed?

Gow: There was a thorough investigation. If there is new information brought up of course we want to hear it. That is what happened. It all depends on the available information.

Joshua Fiegel: I have no doubt this is difficult to handle. Are you looking to other universities on how they handle this sort of thing?

Gow: I am following the situation at Madison very closely. It's tough because two different justice finding bodies came to two different conclusions, which raised a whole bunch of issues. We have to work with what we have. The safety of students and integrity are what are important. I am an alum of Penn- State university, and I have to apologize sometimes, and there the president messed up. I will never look the other way as chancellor.

Faith: I am confused by the "notification" of the issue you were talking about.

Gow: It was the timeliness of it. We didn't tell them we found any evidence to corroborate the charge. It was wrong, you should tell everyone as soon as you can. We all want answers very fast. It doesn't feel very good to be in this cloud of uncertainty, and people are speculating. We don't want to rush to judgement. It was like 6 weeks and that should never happen. I am very sorry that it did. I know there are a lot of big issues and it is a heavy time. I get that real well. On the other hand, we need to know that we have a great reputation and I will go to the next regent meeting and other chancellors will want exactly what we have. We are proud of this university and we will get these things resolved. Next week we will announce the



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largest donation in the history of the school and we are excited for that.

V. General Student Body Open Forum: N/A

VI. Officer Reports

- a. **President: Sita Agterberg:** Student reps is this Saturday, I rented a car. Our car is full but let us know if we need to rent another. As far as open seats go, I am getting in contact with the election commission. I am waiting to send out that email once I know the details. We do still need a senator on joint planning and budget. If I could serve on it I would, but I have lab. Next week is ALICE training, so if you can make it that's great. I do want to touch on the case Joe Gow answered on. We reached out to ----- and offered our support and that Senate stands by her. She is waiting for the investigation to close before she pushes for change. Next semester, do yall know what DUO is? All student will have it. It might be a little messy. That's all I have.
- b. **Vice President:**
- c. **Chief of Staff: Mark Moralez:** N/A
- d. **State Affairs Director: Alex Becker:** No report.
- e. **Local Affairs Director: Bennett Thering:** Good lease standard campagin
- f. **Inclusivity Director: Faith Fisher:** It will be really important for student association to show up for take back the night but I do not have a ton of information at the time.
- g. **Public Relations Director: Olivia Ahnen:**We are not talking about shirts tonight. Involvement fest went great and I think we have a good number that are interested in student association.
- h. **Sustainability Director: Samantha Wolfe:** Working on the TREX thing, Octoberfest cleanup will be on ----- . There is Climate strike week coming up soon and it is BYOS bring your own sign. There is the food recovery network and recover food that is not used in Whitney. The UW system sustainability conference is coming up. I am going and let me know if you would like to.

VII. Advisor Reports: Dr. Larry: They have started developing two gender neutral bathrooms right now. Lower level is not ideal, but the space is limited. We have put the verma composting to a halt right now because all the worms are dead. For years now we have the composter sits there and we put material in there from the kitchens and produce and there are thousands of worms that turn into compostable droppings. I think the worms were eaten by mice. So, it was initially a green fund request. A faculty member requested it. Mayo bought it and Hillview wanted to help but now don't think it is worth their time at the moment. We have no other alternative to composting.

Shock: Whats the Tennis court stuff for?

Larry: greenspace. It is a pretty huge space but just a greenspace.

Sita: As far as that greenspace goes is it worth students persuing a garden or native plants there?



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Larry: Maybe

- VIII. Committee Reports:** Nielson: First finance and budgeting committee meeting. We are at 2200 first year students. We will probably be at about 2190. We are in our tuition freeze still. There are not as many international students coming abroad. So, losing funding there. Funding will be an issue. Cuts will likely happen. We have been keeping track of events and there have been 6000 students at events.

Sita: I am on a syllabus committee and we are talking about issues we have with the syllabus. Last year we wrote hate/bias resolution on it. We had a productive meeting about a page we want on every syllabus.

- IX. Organizational Reports: N/A**

X. Unfinished Business

- a. SA1920-004: Resolution to Appoint Student Association Vice President**

Sita: I introduced this last week and am following up this week. Olivia resigned, and we decided that Dana would make a great VP.

Discussion:

Swanchara: Call to question, second Wiza. Passed.

Swearing in Dana as VP

XI. New Business

- a. SA1920-005: Resolution to Recommend a Syllabus Statement to Faculty Senate**

Sita: ok, this is a resolution to recommend a syllabus statement to faculty senate. We have been working on a page that every student should know if there is hate bias or sexual misconduct or an issue with professional standards. We want this to be in every syllabus.

Discussion:

Lichtfull: wondering about the feasibility of this?

Sita: We are optimistic it will go through, and she will be talking to the exec committee and we really just want feedback right now.

Mcreavy: Hi, um I am wondering if it is possible to amend the document saying to bring a friend with them. Would like to change the language saying that they can bring a supporter with them at any point in the process.

Sita: I think it's a good idea.



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amends document to fit preferred language

Discussion on amended:

Naeder: I agree it's a good change.

Wiza: call to question, passed.

Whole Document Discussion:

Shock: My concern mentions the student handbook mentioned in the last line. Where is the student handbook? I have never seen one.

Sita: That is found on student affairs homepage. This goes through every step because I have never heard of it. Hopefully this makes people aware of the student handbook as a whole.

Motion to end discussion: Perkins, Second Liftcuss, passed.

b. SA1920-006: Resolution to Support Survivors of Sexual Assault

Sita: This is in reaction to current events on campus. I would like feedback on this.

Discussion:

Mcreavy: After the second whereas, at the end of graduate career, I would like to add “and nearly half of nonbinary and transgender individuals will experience sexual violence in their lifetime.” Second by McClain Passed.

Discussion:

Lichtfull: what is the purpose of the fourth whereas?

Dana: I will answer, I wanted to add that some people like to keep it a personal and some people like to take action. I wanted to clarify that we support all victims. Motion: Wiza, to close discussion.

c. SA1920-007: Resolution in Opposition to 2019 Senate Bill 341

Bekcer: To put it in perspective only 1600-1700 students voted in your election. This bill has almost no bipartisan support and if it passes we could kiss our residence hall goodbye. If it passes I will send it to the corresponding government officials.



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Discussion:

Naeder: This is really well written and I just have a question. What were the reasons for this bill to be put forward.

Becker: My idea of why this is brought up is that it will hinder university spending.

Sita: They think maybe this is a way to cap student fees and why they are persuing this.

Movement to end discussion: swanchara, second Wee, passed.

XII. Discussion:

- a. MTU- Sita Agterberg:** Me again, this one has to do with a lack of parking on campus. We want to get ways to advertise MTU which all studetns get for free. If anyone has any way to advertise it I want to hear it.

Mcreavy: Ideas now or email?

Lichtfuss: Maybe a way through reslife would be a good way to advertise.

Hansen: Really boring idea, doing a bus tour of La Crosse to do something for people who aren't familiar with the area.

Lee: advertise the app.

Shock: I would second the app, and I am wondering what ideas you have already heard?

Sita: Let me pull up the email. There are currently brochures at the info counter and the admissions staff uses campus visits to talk about MTU pass. They provide a presentation to international students about it. That's it.

Hansen: Maybe including in UWL 100 for the following year. A lot of freshman are unaware of this.

Swanchara: An idea that comes to me is an informational booth near the entrance to the dining hall.

Hinz: I was going to say the same thing. They are going to be eating at whitney, so if we had a sign or a table it it would help them see that.

Move to end discussion: Liftcuss second, Hansen, passed.

- b. Pledge/ Indigenous Land Recognition Statement- Sita Agterberg:** We used to have a pledge in here and it is up to us what we open up the meeting with. I don't want the sole choice in this so what you feel is best is what you should let me know.



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Holk: As the student senator for Native American Student Association I would support the land recognition statement because it is important to recognize.

Lichtfuss: Why did we take out the pledge?

Sita: we wanted every administration to choose.

Hinz: What Holk said, it is important to say the recognition statement.

Swancara: I am in favor of implementing the land recognition statement but not the pledge of allegiance.

Schock: I remember last year there was a discussion when the senator from NASA said it that there was a point of order. Would that have to change?

Sita: When we changed the bylaws we were allowed to change this rule. Last year there was a Point of information on whether they could do that in announcements.

Juame: I support the land recognition statement.

Lichtfuss: I have a problem saying the land recognition without the pledge. I love this country and want to say both.

Move to close: swancara, second Lee, passed.

c. Green Fund Ad Hoc Committee- Jake Myers: I am our sustainability coordinator and we should make a committee for coming up with green fund ideas. Especially now since we have 20,000 dead worms hahahahaha.

Dana: Is there interest in being on the committee? So we have Hansen, Holk, and Goodrow? Ok. So, unless Dr. Larry has anything else we just need a majority to approve the ad hoc committee. Passed.

XIII. Announcements

Dana: we have a couple sheets over there about a scholarship for tuition money. If you haven't heard from your committee or need to change please see me. We are missing senators so those will be filled. It is director Wolfe's birthday, so we should sing happy birthday.
Sings happy birthday

XIV. Adjournment

Motion: swancara, second Wiza, passed.