



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 23, 2019**

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:04 p.m.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Moved Cayo, Second Lee
 - b. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Guest Speakers
 - a. **Senator Jen Shilling**

Senator Shilling represents 32nd Senate, 87-92. She is a UWL Alumni, and served on the County Board as Student Rep. She was twenty years old when she ran on County Board and said that it was a fantastic opportunity to take what she learned in her text books and apply it to her real life.

- i. “I’ve been active in the alumni foundation. I loved the experience that I had here on campus so I want to make sure I pay it forward. We didn’t have a discussion about going on to college, it was just assumed. I know for many families that is not a given. It’s a very different time now. Having served in the assembly and now representing the Senate District, in the past I had served on higher education. Colleges/Universities are some of the things that I really enjoyed. The health committees were natural fits as well. Right now, I am serving as the Senate Democratic leader, it’s kind of like I’m serving as the class president. When I went to school here, I didn’t serve in student government. I decided to run to college board as a New Year’s Resolution. I joined College Democrats at the time, I had to dig myself out of that academic hole that I found myself in and I really enjoyed it. Fast forward many years and now serving in the state Senate, I want to be a voice for this campus. I am appreciative of the generosity for the tax payers of this state for some of the new buildings. I thank you and the students who came before you for the referendums. As we went through this last budget, part two of the science budget was something we were really hopeful would be moved forward. We have more that we need to do, especially on the science side and I want to continue fighting. As we looked at the last budget, UWL did pretty well as far as the building commissioner. \$24.4 million in the soccer field. Having only lived not very far from campus, my kids and I like to come see the games. Unfortunately, the building commission rejected phase two of the science hall. As well as rejecting fire and smoke detectors in two of the dorms. We are in our fall floor period, the Republicans control the legislature. We aren’t meeting very often. It is a plan, an effort, a strategy. While we have a split government, we have met seven times this year in the state senate. We usually meet two or three days a week in September. We are only scheduled one day a month in October, November, and February. Because we find ourselves in an arranged marriage where a democratic and republic situation, we need each other. We are seeing a breakdown of the process and the institution. I’ve wanted



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to work on civility and I extend an olive branch. People back home sometimes don't know if I'm in the majority or the minority, democrat or republican. I think the public deserves better. One of the issues is the idea of tuition freezes and state support in terms of the university. I think it's important that we fund the freeze. We have still growing costs on campus and as we've looked at it we need to see how we can backfill the tuition freeze. The financial aid pie still seems to be the same amount. In relation with that, I've also been supportive on legislation of student loan debt. There's a task force on student debt. Many states have proposals in the legislature and legislation isn't coming through, there is a log jam. Unfortunately, dealing with student loan debt we haven't been able to move forward. Another issue you asked me to speak on is non-partisan redistricting. In 2020 the census takes place and in 2021, new legislative maps will be drawn. In the senate district, they represent about 170,000 people. Judges draw those district lines in Iowa, not senators. We have seen good government groups come forward. I certainly think we have had maps that are rigging the system as far as voter's voices that are so one party controlled, they just have to worry about primaries. I will say, to the extent of redistricting, it has been flipped back and forth between republican and democratic governors. One of my open ended questions is, in preparation for Spring Elections is that how can we make sure that students are registered to vote? By standing in line to vote, we want to make sure they are lower lines. Only sixty-one people made the difference. I go to a meeting, I realize that these are the difference makers. I want to make sure that groups understand that your vote counts. I hope the University and working with student senate and other groups. Sarah is my UWL grad, Nate is serving in my office. We have several UWL graduates who are serving in my office. We are always open to getting students into offices. We have a UWL day where we set up speed networking in the Senate Parlor. We have lobbyists who are UWL graduates. We have agency staff, whatever we can do to open the door for UWL students to get them open to public service. I want to fly the flag of the University being very supportive. I did hand out how to lobby the legislature, and how to keep in touch. UWL students have been phenomenal with their staff and with UWL and student issues across the UW system. You all have big shoes to fill who are working and networking. I'm proud to see UWL students down at the capitol. I'd like to open this up to questions now."

Fiegel: As far as us understanding what the needs are for students who elected us, do you have any recommendations on how to know that?

Shilling: I think listening sessions are super important. I'm going to be on campus on Monday the 28th from 2-3, just asking questions about what people would like to see and what they want to see us working on. I'm on campus quite a bit. I think asking good questions, being available, it's easy to get instant feedback on social media and through student surveys and things like that.

Becker: What is the democratic caucuses legislative strategy to accomplish to enact or perhaps force a non-partisanship process or do you expect that to be a



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battle between republicans and democrats?

Shilling: Right now, the republicans control both houses of the legislature. Legislatively my colleagues have not been interested in signing on the bill. We want to take it to the voters saying, “When you see your officials, let them know that redistricting is a priority.” When we do redistricting we need to do it in a way where we don’t know who is going to be the governor. By passing them far enough in advance, it levels the playing field. I am upset with the rejection of the will of the people on some of these issues. If people start to lose seats over the lack of agency. My republican colleagues say the right thing, but when it’s time to enact they just don’t say anything. We have one republican who has signed onto a bill. Hopefully he is hearing it from his constituents. Continuing to apply pressure to those who choose to ignore.

Wolfe: Along with the redistricting, I saw a PR article, are there any other challenges that we face?

Shilling: Photo ID in and of itself is a challenge. I know it’s hard to get a photo ID, some campuses are in compliance. Transportation can sometimes be a challenge, not having enough polling places available, not having enough poll workers. We passed legislation several years ago that allow people who are in high school and sixteen years old to work the polls. I think yes there are challenges, no one should ever take for granted your ability to vote. Making sure you have access to the voter box. I would love it if we made it a national holiday, I know we have some laws on the books, but there are things we could do to make them better. Absentee ballots is another thing, in order to make it easier.

Becker: Whether it was last year, 2016, or any other years. Have there been any cases of proven voter fraud in Wisconsin?

Shilling: I think it isn’t very many. If someone voted twice it got picked up. If they voted at home and then at another place, the system works. It has picked up. It is not as rampant as people like to say it is. Republicans talk about voter fraud several times. It has been someone who identifies as a Republican, I don’t like to point out that it is only one group but there is some affiliation. I think it is way exaggerated.

Fiegel: Due to the tuition freeze, even though UWL has an increase in admissions, we are going to most likely end up losing professors and it might lower the quality of our education.

Shilling: UWL went to the board of regents to petition to allow there to be differential tuition. In the past, when campus has come to me to add one hundred jobs here on campus, it is significant. It benefited students and staff and this campus. I did not support this budget. There have been budgets that I haven’t supported with a democratic governor and a republican governor. As we look at



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the, about one million dollar cuts, I do worry about quality instructors. It seems like we are always in a search and screen position to replace deans or administrators. We need to be competitive with our faculty pay. Here in the Midwest, you could have someone here in La Crosse who works in Winona or St. Mary's. I'm not in a position to say where we will cut the one million dollars and it pains me. Not a great answer, but I think that students should have a voice in it. If there are discussions that are happening on campus regarding the least amount of pain it is a step forward.

Schock: I believe that La Crosse does the paper voting, I guess my concern is with electronic ballots it has been demonstrated that those ballots can be hacked. Is that something you are thinking about?

Shilling: We have an elections commissions and an ethics commission. I certainly listen to the elections board commissioner about what they need for security and training and software. If there are attempts, how far did they get? We're going to continue as a nation, federally to keep this heightened alert system. I want people to believe that their vote is going to count and won't be tampered with. By making sure that there are appropriate backups, but with electronic paper. The clerk continues to say that our system works, I think that demonstrates that it works. Certainly, hacking and other foreign interference is a heightened issue.

Office hours are in 3125, it's very informal. Please stop by!

- V. General Student Body Open Forum
 - a. None
- VI. Officer Reports
 - a. President: **Sita Agterberg**
 - i. LeaderShape
 - ii. Student Representatives November 9th, in Madison at the Pile Center
 - iii. Resolution supporting the call for an Open Forum
 - 1. Unfortunately, Joe Gow is unable to do the open forum. His regularly scheduled forum is the 14th of November.
 - 2. Campus Climate will be having an open forum on October 29th 11:30-1:15 and Title IX coordinator will be there. It is in the Bluffs.
 - b. Vice President: **Dana Nielsen**
 - i. Guest Speakers: Dr. Tim Dale
 - ii. Committee attendance
 - 1. Remember to attend your committees. It is part of your job as a senator to go.
 - iii. Canvas
 - 1. There is a Student Association page, Olivia Woodmansee has decided she is not going to update it anymore and everything will be going on the website.
 - iv. Live Stream



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1. You shouldn't really be talking during the meetings unless you have the floor.
- c. Chief of Staff: **Mark Moralez**
 - i. For the newer senators that are assigned to specific colleges, I will be contacting you about getting a meeting with the Dean of your college. Also, there is faculty senate this week. Nizam will be there and Joe Gow. They will be discussing the open forum that we passed.
- d. State Affairs Director: **Alex Becker**
 - i. Will be introducing several resolutions next week seeking a stance from Senate on whether the UW System should fund the tuition freeze, as well as if the federal government should pass an update to the amendment to the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make FAFSA easier among several other things. Sita and I are finishing up details on the lobbying trip that will be in November. We will update you all soon on that.
- e. Local Affairs Director: **Bennett Thering**
 - i. No Report
- f. Inclusivity Director: **Faith Fisher**
 - i. Absent
- g. Public Relations Director: **Olivia Ahnen**
 - i. People on the Marketing and Special Events Committee stick around after meeting for a few minutes.
 - ii. S'mores with the Senators is November 1st, 6:00-8:00
- h. Sustainability Director: **Samantha Wolfe**
 - i. Working on doing a plastic bag recycling competition in the dorms now.
- VII. Advisor Reports
 - a. Absent
- VIII. Committee Reports
 - a. Thering: SUFAC met on Monday, we went over 10-12 Capital Fund requests. We sent out some additional questions to some groups regarding decisions.
 - b. Wolfe: Green Fund Ad Hoc met on Friday and changed our plan a little bit on where the money will come from. We will be looking at different places on campus and having students call
 - c. Fiegel: Joint Planning and Budget committee met, trying to figure out where to find that money otherwise we will have a cut to professors.
 - d. Neader: Student Services and Buildings Committee met. We didn't do too much, we got our officers elected. Our Vice Chair is Andrew Erickson, our Secretary is Senator Yuengst. We are going to be talking a lot about meatless Mondays and doing table touches in the dining areas.
- IX. Organizational Reports
 - a. Wolfe: Students for Sustainability met and we had a speaker come in.
 - b. McReavy: Pride Center exec team met for the first time this week. We have had a really big number of growth. We're potentially looking at moving our meeting locations.
 - c. Lee: HOPE will be going to a conference in Stevens Point on November first.
- X. Unfinished Business
 - a. Swearing in new Senators, Garcia and Ott.
 - b. SA1920-017: **Resolution to Recommend Finding an Alternate Time for the**



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Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium

- i. Schock: A recommendation for moving the time of the Spring Research Symposium from the middle of the day and week to a better, more accessible time.

Discussion:

Wiza: Call to question.

Wong: Seconded.

XI. New Business

a. SA1920-018: **Resolution Recommending Students for Sustainability to be Awarded a Senate Seat**

- i. Schock: Student Embassy seat is vacant and the psychology club and student for sustainability club both applied and Students for Sustainability was selected. This is written as a by-laws thing. If a student organization is no longer recognized by student university centers, it can be approved by 2/3rds senate. I thought this was the appropriate language. That being said, I don't see any reason why it couldn't be moved from temporary to permanent seat.

Discussion:

Yuengst: Can you get rid of the commas after the whereas? As a friendly?

McReavy: How many members does Students for Sustainability have? Do they have enough people to keep this seat filled?

Wolfe: The current email list is sitting at 341 members and it has been updated. The meetings every week fill up a classroom in Centennial, so probably thirty people at each meeting.

Schock: It is a sizeable organization.

Neader: When we're voting on this, are we voting for this to be added as a permanent seat or a temporary seat for the rest of the year?

Schock: As it is currently written, because that seat is vacant. It isn't an org putting in for another org, that 2/3rds vote would make it a permanent seat.

Neader: I think it's an incredible idea to have this. If RASO is filled more, would we lose this seat?

Fiegel: When was it announced that orgs could have a seat on the Senate?

Schock: Every org at the all orgs meeting was made aware and an email was sent out as well as a reminder email.

Cayo: In the second whereas can we make the if lowercase? In the first whereas can we capitalized Senate? And in the third whereas can we capitalize Senators? In the first whereas could we potentially change it to whereas, RASO is currently in a process of being deactivated and... All as friendlies.

Schock: I'll leave it up to, I want to encourage discussion. If there is no further discussion, if there is anyone on the exec board?

Agterberg: I emailed Dr. Larry about this, not that you guys care, but last year in our bylaws we got rid of RASO. We have this vacant seat, and in the past, orgs have gone to get a temporary seat to see how they add to it. After a seat has a seat temporarily for a year, just because SFS has never had a seat on Senate before, we don't know what will happen. It is a permanent seat. We have to remember that.

Motion to close discussion.



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b. SA1920-019: **Resolution On Adopting an Inclusivity Statement for Senate**

- i. Cayo: Last week we had an open discussion about workshopping the statement, we ended up starting from scratch to make it more inclusive and action based. In a perfect world, we would get this passed and then added into our bylaws. Then hopefully in the bylaws of other organizations on campus.

Discussion:

McReavy: Could you make a friendly to flip sexual orientation and race. It's supposed to be alphabetized? So, Race, Religion, and then sexual orientation? Thank you. We also discussed the wording with some more constituents and we wanted to change bias-free to anti-prejudiced. And, I yield to senator Cayo about why.

Cayo: The reason why bias-free could be problematic, is because you need to acknowledge your bias and then move past it. Striving to be anti-prejudice is better.

Discussion on amendment:

Hook: I want to say I support it because all of us have bias.

Neader: I approve of this, I think there is a way to word this a bit better. I was thinking maybe providing and promoting an environment free of prejudice or something like that. I don't have a better alternative.

Cayo/McReavy: We accept as a friendly.

Perkins: Call to question.

Seconded by Yuengst.

Perkins: Would it make grammatical sense to place a colon on the second line?

Cayo: That would be grammatically correct, we'll take that as a friendly.

Yuengst: I like that you added the but is not limited to. I like this statement and that statement within it. So, I support it.

Neader: Last time we talked about adding more action based language, I think it's really well written.

Packard: Looking at the over-all wording, I was wondering if the holding student association accountable was addressed elsewhere?

Cayo: So, the reason we used that language is that we were afraid that without anything stating that explicitly, I am open to hearing ideas on how to keep us accountable in this language or in this resolution as a whole, or we could make another resolution on what that process is. That's why we used that specific language, just so we could be certain it is something to honor as a whole.

Lichtfuss: Move to end discussion.

Seconded by Fiegel.

c. SA1920-020: **Resolution Approving Graduate Senator**

Agterberg: A Packard accepted a position on senate.

Packard: I am a graduate student in the biology department. I was a dual major with biology and archeology.

Discussion:

Fiegel: Motion to suspend the two week rule.

Passed.

Nielsen: Since we want you to be able to vote next week, we will be voting on this tonight.

Perkins: Call to question.



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Passed.
Sworn in.

XII. Discussion

a. Music in the E-Café: **Cameron Neader**

i. Neader: It's just from the Student Services and Building Committee, we were asked the student opinion on whether we should have music playing in the E-Café. They would have the televisions be silent and then have background music playing, or if you have any other thoughts.

Schock: I think background music would be a great idea. I think while I was studying Judge Judy, ESPN, Dr. Phil, and Family Feud were all going on. It was distracting. I think in general music would be better. If Packer Games or other events are on I would say put it on that though.

McReavy: I'm in favor of putting the tv's on silent. I would caution playing music that is too loud or distracting. In the COVE it can get distracting.

Myers: Just choose something that's really soothing. I've done chemistry homework to Cardi B, it's hard to focus in the COVE.

Lee: If this was to happen, a fun thing they could do is input multicultural music and introduce students to new music.

Nielsen: I like classical, I think it's great for studying.

XIII. Announcements

a. Nielsen: The Free Speech Event went really well. It was a lot of fun.

b. Agterberg: The open forum about title IX is Tuesday October 29th in the Bluffs from 11:30 to 1:15.

c. Cayo: This Friday Campus Thread is opening at the Common Grounds at 10 am to 1 pm. It's going to be like a clothing drive, they're going to have business casual stuff. It's really cool that we'll be having this available to us.

XIV. Adjournment

a. Moved.