



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

**SA1920-037: Resolution Recommending a Student Parent Section in Faculty Syllabi**

DATE: January 28, 2020

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SPONSOR(S): Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, K.C. Cayo, Andrew Ericson, Avery McLain, Rachel Stock, Brice Hansen

WHEREAS there are student parents who attend the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and student parents may have different needs than other students in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse mission statement dedicates the University Community to creating a diverse environment that is fully engaged in supporting students' success; and

WHEREAS most faculty syllabi do not currently contain a section with resources or considerations for student parents and such a section would support the academic success and wellbeing of student parents on campus;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse Student Association recommends the statement below, which is adapted from a nationally circulated policy by Dr. Melissa Cheyney of Oregon State University and is put forth by the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department, be made digitally available to all students; and

**Children in Class**

For student parents, the juggling act of school can be especially challenging. UWL does not have a policy on children in the classroom, but as an instructor, I am sensitive to student parents who sometimes face the impossible choice of fulfilling their educational requirements and the needs of their children. I offer these classroom practices as a response:

- 1) All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as is necessary to support the breastfeeding relationship. If you're a breastfeeding parent, you and your nursing baby are welcome in class anytime.
- 2) For older children and babies, I understand that unforeseen disruptions in childcare often put parents in difficult positions where staying home or placing your child with someone you or your child isn't comfortable with. While not intended to be a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class in order to cover gaps is acceptable.



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- 3) I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming environment that includes respect for diversity in parenting status.
- 4) In all cases where babies and children come to class, I ask that you sit close to the door so that you may step outside if your little one needs special attention and is disrupting learning for other students. I also ask that non-parents in the class reserve seats near the door for your parenting classmates.
- 5) If your parenting responsibilities include the need to have a cell phone on in class, please let me know in advance. If you must take a call or text, please step outside the classroom to do so.
- 6) Please be mindful that some classroom environments are not appropriate for children. Some examples may include, but not limited to: lab/studio classes where dangerous substances are in use or classes where graphic materials are present.
- 7) Parenting young children while managing school can be logistically challenging and exhausting! If you are a student parent, I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing that status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. While I maintain high expectations for all students in my class, I am happy to problem solve with you as you work to balance your school-parenting roles.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association recommends that faculty senate draft a shortened version such as the statement below to be adapted into all faculty syllabi along with a digital link to the full statement:

As an instructor, I am sensitive to the needs of student parents. Please see the link below for resources and accommodations for student parents.

Handwritten signature of Dana Nielsen in black ink.

Dana Nielsen  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

02/19/2020

Date

Handwritten signature of Sita Agterberg in black ink.

Sita Agterberg  
President, Student Association

02/19/2020

Date