



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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**SA1920-055: Resolution Approving Legislative Affairs Committee Bylaws Changes**

DATE: April 20, 2020

AUTHOR(S): Alex Becker

SPONSOR(S): Legislative Affairs Committee, Jessica Boerschinger, Mai Lee, Isaac Ozolins, Abe Packard, Andrew Ericson, Alec Bouchard

WHEREAS the Legislative Affairs Committee has approved several changes to the Legislative Affairs Committee bylaws; and

WHEREAS Article III, Section I was changed to include two at-large students (instead of one), and removed the wording that one committee member “preferably” be reserved for a graduate student; and

WHEREAS Article X was changed to include a more-specific definition of the term “impeachment,” and also included the language from the Constitution of the University of Wisconsin La Crosse Student Association that grants the Legislative Affairs Committee the power to investigate members of the UWLSA for violations of national, state, or university policies; and

WHEREAS Article X, Section III was changed to more-accurately reflect the duties and powers granted to the Legislative Affairs Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED upon approval of this resolution by the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate, the proposed changes to the Legislative Affairs Committee bylaws shall take effect immediately.

Handwritten signature of Dana Nielsen in black ink.

Dana Nielsen  
President, Student Senate  
Vice President, Student Association

04/29/2020

Date

Handwritten signature of Sita Agterberg in black ink.

Sita Agterberg  
President, Student Association

04/29/2020

Date



BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



## ARTICLE I: NAME

### Section I: Name

The name of this committee shall be the Legislative Affairs Committee, a standing committee of the Student Senate (UWL Student Association).

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

### Section I: Purpose

The purpose of the Legislative Affairs Committee is to advise UWLSA on issues regarding its governing documents and provide opinions on state and federal legislation pertaining to higher education.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### Section I: Voting Members

- a) **Student Representatives-** The student membership shall consist of seven (7) students, at least four (4) being senators, at least two (2) being students chosen at-large.
- b) **Faculty-** The faculty membership shall consist of four (4) faculty appointed by the Faculty Senate and one (1) faculty appointee shall be from the Political Science Department.
- c) **Academic Staff-** The academic staff membership shall consist of the Dean of Students or a designee.

### Section II: Non-Voting Members

The non-voting student membership shall consist of the Student Association Parliamentarian.

### Section III: Elections

- a) **Officers-** The committee shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary from its membership. This will be done by the end of the first meeting of the year by a majority cast for each office.
- b) **Terms-** The officers shall serve for one (1) academic year and their term shall begin immediately after election.
- c) **Vacancy-** If a vacancy of the chairperson occurs; the vice-chair person shall assume the office of chairperson. If the office of the vice-chairperson is vacated, a new vice-chairperson shall be elected by the same election process.
- d) **Eligibility-** All officers shall be students.

## **ARTICLE IV: RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Section I: Duties of the Committee**

- a) The committee will maintain the constitution of the Student Association and the by-laws of the Student Senate and its committees. The committee will submit an annual written summary and review of the committee's activities to the Student Association. The committee will investigate impeachment charges brought forth against members of the Student Association and present their findings to the Student Senate.
- b) Assess both UC and USSA and decide if any resolution regarding, joining or leaving, should be pursued of either organization.
- c) Assess other organizations that could represent UWL and UWLSA on a state or federal level, and decide if any resolution should be pursued to join as members.

## **ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section I: Chairperson**

- a) Call meetings of the committee.
- b) Preside at meetings of the committee.
- c) Prepare and establish an agenda for the committee.
- d) Act as an official representative of the committee.
- e) Serve as an ex-officio member of all sub-committees of the committee.
- f) Make reports to the Student Senate regarding committee actions.
- g) Excuse or not excuse all absences of the committee members.

### **Section II: Vice-Chairperson**

- a) Preside at meetings of the committee in the absence of the chairperson.
- b) Assume the position of the chairperson if the chairperson becomes unable to perform the duties of office.
- c) Excuse the chairperson from meetings of the committee.
- d) Carry out any reasonable instructions of the chairperson.

### **Section III: Secretary**

- a) Record the minutes of all meetings of the committee.
- b) Distribute all minutes to the committee and shall provide a copy of the minutes to the Student Association office.
- c) Maintain a file of committee minutes from the beginning of the year.
- d) Take attendance at all committee meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI: COMPENSATION**

### **Section I: Compensation of Committee Members**

The committee chair will be compensated for his or her work on the committee based on the discretion of the UWLSA President.

## **ARTICLE VII: VOTING**

### **Section I: Quorum**

A quorum will consist of a simple majority (half of the members plus one) of the voting members.

### **Section II: Motions**

Action of the committee shall be by a majority vote.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

### **Section I: Convening the First Meeting**

It shall be the Vice-President of Student Association's duty to appoint a student member of the committee to convene the committee of each academic year within the first three (3) weeks.

### **Section II: Meetings**

Meetings shall be held as needed at the discretion of the chairperson during the academic year.

### **Section III: Special Meetings**

- a) Special meetings may be called by the chairperson by providing written notice to all committee members within twenty-four (24) hours.
- b) The Legislative Affairs Committee may create subcommittees to as deemed necessary. Each subcommittee shall have a list of policies and procedures with the Legislative Affairs Committee, and all policies and procedures must be approved by the Legislative Affairs Committee.

### **Section IV: Open Meetings**

All meetings will be held in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

### **Section V: Parliamentary Procedure**

Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall be used as the parliamentary authority.

### **Section VI: Business Conduct**

- a) The committee will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
- b) The committee will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the University of Wisconsin-System.
- c) The committee will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the state of Wisconsin.

## **ARTICLE IX: ATTENDANCE**

### **Section I: Absences**

Members shall be allowed two (2) unexcused absences. An unexcused absence will be defined as any absence where the Chair of the committee is not notified prior to the meeting missed. A third unexcused absence will be considered abandonment of the committee and will result in dismissal.

## **ARTICLE X: IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS**

### **Section I: Definition**

- a. An article of impeachment shall serve as an indictment against a member of the UWLSA student government that has been charged with misconduct by the Legislative Affairs Committee.

### **Section II: Investigation**

- a. Pursuant to Article IX, Section 2 of the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse Student Association Constitution, the Legislative Affairs Committee shall have power to investigate the President, Vice-President, Senators, Justices, Directors, and committee members of the Student Government that have been accused of being in major violation of a national, state, or local law; of a violation of a major University policy; of failure to uphold the Constitution, appropriate By-Laws, or legislation passed by the UWLSA; of failure to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this Constitution; or any abuses of power.
- b. The Legislative Affairs Committee shall conduct any impeachment investigation of a member of the UWLSA student government if the qualifications are satisfied pursuant to the UWLSA by-laws.
- c. Prior to the next Student Senate meeting, after an impeachment investigation resolution passes the Student Senate, the Legislative Affairs Committee shall convene to hear testimony from the parties involved.
  - a. The investigation will be conducted in closed session.
  - b. Each party will be given 5 minutes to make an opening statement and will then have no longer than 30 minutes to answer questions.

### **Section III: Findings**

- a. The Legislative Affairs Committee will consider all evidence provided for and against the accused party and will decide whether to introduce articles of impeachment, impose a different form of reprimand, and/or do nothing.
- b. The Legislative Affairs Committee will then present their decision in the form of a binding resolution to the Student Senate.
- c. If the Legislative Affairs Committee recommends impeachment, or imposition of a different form of a reprimand, the Student Senate must approve the decision by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. If the committee chooses not to recommend impeachment, or impose a different form of reprimand, the Student Senate may choose to reopen the investigation with a majority vote.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

### **Section I: Amendments**

Amendments to the Legislative Affairs Committee by-laws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the committee and approval of the Student Senate.

7/29/86

Revised 12/92

Revised 11/08

Revised 4/2010

Revised 5/4/2011

Revised 4/24/2013

Revised 4/29/2020