

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 Time and Location: 6:00pm; Zoom

I. Call to Order

a. 6:02

II. Roll Call

III. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes
- b. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Learning New Meeting Procedure
 - a. Ahnen: I put this little guide into a PowerPoint so hopefully this gives you the general gist of what it is about. The whole point of redoing it is to make things more inclusive and a collaborative experience for everyone. What we used last time wasn't the best and didn't foster the best conversation. Best outcomes are when people work together, so we decided to make some changes. I'll take you through a general meeting in this PowerPoint. Before you start freaking out, the general format is the same, I just got rid of some formalities and things that slowed things down, decreasing efficiency. Shorter meeting times are always desired and hopefully this will help with that.

 At 6pm, meetings will start, approve minutes and agenda. Originally was the other order but I feel like it makes sense to do it this way instead. Next is introducing the guest speakers. From the form that you all filled out last semester, I heard that you all like guest speakers. If there are any people who you would to see as guest speakers, that would be cool if you could just let me know.

Then we move onto the student body and officer reports. After those reports, there will be time for you to ask questions, which is new. Next is the advisor reports and then questions, and then to committee and org reports. I put them together to save on time. These next ones are some more of the drastic changes, but they still really aren't that big. With unfinished and new business, the author will introduce it and the speakers list is no more. We are all adults, just speak up for discussion. I will keep things in line to make sure that we don't have many things happening at once. Voting will always happen the week after the resolution is introduced. The week it is introduced is for discussing the resolutions and making the necessary changes. There will be no more technical terms like a friendly or whatever, a change will be made on the document and the process will be repeated until no one has anything else to say. When no one else has anything to say, I will assume that everyone is happy with it the way it stands, and there will be no motions to end discussion or vote. Then the new doc will be brought to a vote to keep the updated version. The next week's meeting will be a vote to implement the updated resolution. The goal of this next change was to make discussion a more collaborative experience. You will be split into five random breakout groups, a new one every week. We are virtual right now, so that is easy but, in the future, you will physically break into smaller groups. The point of these groups is to take 10-15 min to discuss the agenda's discussion points or something else as long as it pertains to senate. Once that time is up, we will come back into a large group together to discuss everything.

Just general notes, the president is the facilitator. Have us revert back to speakers list if we need to, in order to keep thing running smoothly. Just to reiterate, we are getting rid of



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motions and seconds, to bring to a vote, it is only when there is no more discussion. Additionally, the two-week rule doesn't exist. If you want to vote the night it is brought to senate, you need to suggest that. I'll answer any questions anyone has now.

Zwettler: What is the logic behind eliminating motions and seconds?

Ahnen: They are redundant and unnecessary. More inclusive for people to not need to learn when to second or not.

Zwettler: nothing to do with you- but I have some reservations about one person, the vice president, having all the power over when things get voted on and such. Again, nothing to do with you, Olivia, just the office in general.

Wiza: Doing this is more efficient- y'all have jobs and such so we know that these meetings need to be shorter.

Zwettler: I appreciate the effort just for the future, that someone could really abuse it.

Wiza: I am working on bylaws changes right now and I plan on presenting them later in the semester. If you would like to have a conversation about that at some point, I would be open to that.

Zwettler: I would like that very much, thank you.

Ahnen: The seconds were a verbal cue that y'all were ready to move on and now it is just silence that signifies that. The idea is that it will make people more comfortable to speak.

Schauberger: In the constitution, it says that she already controls the meeting, so she already had that power, this is just more of an informal way of doing things.

Cayo: Does this require a constitution or bylaws change? Is there a concern about future cabinets going back to Roberts?

Ahnen: Right now, this is how I want to run my meetings, as the vice president and that is up to me. But in the future, if that isn't the way that someone else wants to run their meetings, they can choose what they want to do.

Cayo: My concern is that we might flip back and forth every year or every few years, making things even more difficult to learn. And what about yielding to cabinet members?

Wiza: Right now, yes that would be a bylaw change if we were to eliminate that.

Byrne: As for the time for general student body people to speak, is it still that one spot and nowhere else?



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Ahnen: Yes, that is correct.

Ericson: In my opinion, I think it might be beneficial to have the general student body forum before the speakers because those can get quite lengthy. And if people only have a few minutes to stop by our meetings, they wouldn't be able to speak.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

- a. Ben Zess: I am co-chair of SFS and I am on JCES. You all have a resolution to approve the strategic plan and I don't think that is a good idea. For 1, UWL is really far behind with sustainability and JCES is trying to make an argument for this to be in the strategic plan. I think we should introduce that as an aspect of the strategic plan and not pass anything that doesn't have it.
- b. Grace McGrath: I am also here from SFS and I agree with Ben, I think it is time for things to be updated and sustainability to be added.
- c. Christina Mehrkens: I didn't think that this was something that we would need to add, I thought that it would already be there, so I was surprised to hear that it wasn't. I would say that you should include that in a new plan.

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President**: Cate Wiza

- i. We had thought that on January 22nd, an email would have been sent out with the new regulations for off campus testing. Off campus students will be expected to get tested every two weeks if they are on campus at least one day a week. That information is on the UWL Instagram and I can send more info in an email if you would like.
- ii. The budget 101 session is on February 5th. It is an introduction to the different financial accounts at UWL and what the cuts look like and how that affects your quality of education. We have been getting a lot of questions about quality of education even though things are online, and I think this could help explain a lot of that. We will also talk about what the extension of the tuition freeze means. The link is in our Instagram bio.
- iii. Spring enrollment fest- please come for a little bit or as much as you can! I think everyone will get tired of just hearing me do all the talking. Tell constituents to get involved. That's all I have!

b. Vice President: Olivia Ahnen

- I sent out a committee list in the email. If you haven't been going to committees, please go. Attendance is contingent upon what the committee can actually do.
 That means that you actually have to show up. If you aren't sure about meeting times and who to contact, look at that or email me about it and I promise won't get mad.
- ii. Also, update office hours for the new semester if needed. You all have access to that spreadsheet.
- iii. Chancellor Gow will be coming in two weeks as a guest speaker. He is interested in what types of questions you might have or what you want to hear. You can chat me or send me an email giving me a heads up so I can let him know. Especially if its COVID related so we can check with Dr. Deyo.



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c. **Director of Staff**: Faith Fisher

i. WOC scholarship got crowdfunding application approved and that's super cool! And that's all.

d. State Affairs Director: Grant Mathu

- i. According to the CDC and state health authority, they are advising to double mask with new strain that is around so consider doing that.
- ii. The WI state assembly is going to vote tomorrow to possibly repeal the mask mandate. Won't impact UWL campus policies I don't think, since those are all independent things.
- iii. On February 16, local and state elections are happening. State superintendent of schools, primaries for mayor, city council.

e. Local Affairs Director: Amy Schweiner

- i. The election is coming up. I will drop a document with the links with info on the candidates. Get register to vote and tell your roommates to vote.
- ii. Orgs- if you want me to get resources for you to share out about the election, please let me know and I would be happy to do that.

f. Inclusivity Director: Camoya Evans

- i. Since it is black history month, I will start each report with a fun fact about it. This first one will be about black history month. In 1976 it was made official, but it started out as negro history week in the 1920s. A week February was chosen between Abraham Lincoln's birthday and Frederick Douglas' birthday. Historically black colleges started celebrating it as a whole month and then President Ford declared it a thing. Apparently, there's a theme every year, which I didn't know and for 2021, the theme is representation and black identity.
- ii. As for what I am working on, just a couple of resolutions that you will see in the future

g. **Public Relations Director**: Holly Korfmacher

i. My report will mostly be to the cabinet about what I can and can't post. I encourage you all to attend the budget meeting and tell your friends to go vote on Tuesday the 16th.

h. Sustainability Director: Jake Myers

i. I will send a doodle poll to the green fund committee soon if you are on that, please watch out for that so we can set up a meeting time.

VII. Advisor Reports

a. Ringgenberg: As for Grant's report, UWL will continue to mandate masks- not impacted by state assembly.

UWL is experiencing a problem with the email that mails to all students and Microsoft is working on that.

Dining was rough, we had very long lines, we adjusted and made an increase dining times and opened Sono for transfers for students and also added a separate line in Mondo for when there is a lot of people there. I would be happy to answer any questions. Thanks to Andrew and Jake, the OZZI is actually over at Whitney; however, it came and the hinges were damaged. It is usable but we just need to get it fixed up.



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b. Vitaliano: We are currently doing our search for the director of recreational sports. Open sessions tomorrow, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We want to make sure that we are able to hear from everyone. Want to see the same support as the UC director interviews that happened earlier.

VIII. Committee & Organizational Reports

- a. Ericson: As I am sure you all know; I am the green fund coordinator, and we are looking for an advertising specialist for the green fund. This will hopefully have more of a presence on social media, which will be good. Although the OZZI the machine is broken, we sent out an email to everyone on the mail plan- 500 spots available in tokens and got 144 responses who will be the pilot for that program. Originally, the plan was for returning the containers to the machine. But with the machine broken, it will just be returned to a bin by the cashiers' desk.
- b. Zwettler: All I have is that AIDAC will have budget to come soon.
- c. Cayo: A bunch of orgs are sponsoring this American- Indian writer and performance artist to come. You should go watch. From SUFAC, other budgets have been coming in. I have been working on an alcohol sanctions policy, because UWL doesn't have one and I don't think the system doesn't have one either. I can't talk about specifics, but we are working on revised responsible action policy. Hopefully, I can bring that here soon and get y'all feedback
- IX. Unfinished Business
- X. New Business

a. SA2021-030

i. Wiza: Is everyone basically familiar about what a strategic plan is? Okay. I will do a talk about the history of this particular plan. Since it is so big and expensive, the university makes guidelines and goals and puts those under the four pillars. The four pillars are assigned to four groups. I think this is great. I think of course this can be amended. In my opinion, I think we need a new plan. Barbara Stewart is the person in charge of diversity of inclusion and that is where this plan came from- that office. The plan expired in 2020 and it hasn't been redone or reinstated. It is expensive to create these plans, and to get all the resources and planning. Olivia and I met with a bunch of people who talked about what we should do next. Gow doesn't believe it is the best idea to redo everything now. However, not all the goals have been met. Basically, this doesn't say that it will be reinstated, it is just asking that they look into the issue more. If it is reinstated for 5 years, that will have enough time to get new ideas to progress the pillars. This is just asking for action by the chancellor to continue strategically planning. I understand the concerns brought up by students. I think sustainability is important. I'm not confident where this is going to go. I do have a question for senator Ericson- I would be happy to discuss an amendment where we bring up sustainability, but given the low likelihood of things actually happening, I'm not sure what we should do.

Ringgenberg: There are a lot of other options to bring up the sustainability piece. I think it is important to put that in the goals of the university and to bring that up whenever student association gets together with the other committees and such.



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Wiza: I think that the students from SFS should come for JPB when this will get reviewed and have your opinion heard.

Ericson: Of course, we will be there. This 2016-2020 plan has great ideas and pressed us forward as university. But without sustainability, it is incomplete. The UWL mission mentions sustainability and the fact that it isn't there in the plan is just not right.

Zwettler: So what are the impacts of this resolution?

Wiza: This is already a hard thing to push. I think discussion next week won't be so much centered on it. We just wanted to make sure that the diversity and inclusion stuff would be checked up on. There are some good ideas there that just haven't been met completely. If it doesn't pass, it won't be brought up again.

Zwettler: So, the purpose is to bring the strategic plan back into discussion. This is sent to JPB and they will discuss what the governance is asking and decide if it is reinstated. Mostly to check up on the unaccomplished goals. It brings the questions of D and I back into light. It would also hold groups accountable for investing in our people.

Ringgenberg: Yes, essentially, it gives institution some guiding values.

Wiza: I am concerned about D and I goals not being met. If you look around at our campus, a lot of the faculty aren't of D and I. Faculty aren't sticking around. We need to create an inclusive environment for our students.

Zwettler: Faculty and staff retention is a bigger issue than just the strategic plan the tuition freeze is making it harder to pay more and retain some of those professors.

Wiza: The tuition freeze affects every college differently. I think everything plays a role and it is equally important.

Ericson: As to what might happen if we don't pass this- I have talked with LeDoc and we suggest an alternate way to go about this. Either add a section for sustainability or reducing the amount of time that this would be in effect for. I would think that taking more time to discuss the impacts is a better idea for discussion.

Zwettler: Is this the only contact that student senate will have with this?

Wiza: This resolution is confirming that we would be a partner in the future of this. I'm not sure how far down the line it will be re-brought here, but it will be here, in JPB and the JPB exec team.



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Byrne: Whether or not, what I am hearing is that this will be reinstated. So, what is the harm in adding sustainability?

Wiza: I told Andrew that he could add an amendment that would include sustainability if he sees that necessary.

Ericson: Something like "Whereas students see a need for sustainability on a new strategic plan".

Wiza: Olivia, we are going to make an amendment. I would say that "we as a student senate see a need for sustainability in the strategic plan if it is to be continued for the next five years and then as a therefore be it resolved, and the senate recommends that JCES outline the specifics of that.

Xiong: I like how Andrew mentioned back to the mission and vision of UWL and I think that we should include that here as well. Since the plan is working towards that mission and vision.

Byrne: I know that this is unrealistic- if you have tried to get anything sustainable on campus, admin always says that it can't be done because it isn't in the plan. So, getting it in the plan is the first step to getting more sustainable stuff done on campus.

Cayo: I was just wondering which one came first- the pillars or the plan? And would and changes made affect AIDAC funding?

Ericson: Since it is just a guideline, I wouldn't think it would change funding.

Cayo: I am just wondering since groups get funding based on their pillar, if adding something new would change that.

Schauberger: It seems like faculty senate ignores us a lot. It is frustrating. It happens a lot. Is there a way to get them to actually cooperate and not ignore us, with this specifically?

Ericson: I have been in contact with the vice chair of faculty senate and she has been very supportive of this plan and adding sustainability.

Schauberger: I have just noticed that in general, it seems like a lot of push back and it seems like when we try to pass stuff, they try to ignore it. The stuff with spring break and pushing for a long weekend if a good example of that.

Byrne: Are you saying that we should aim high and put sustainability on the new plan?



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Schauberger: Yes, and then if they shoot it down, we should track them down and hold them accountable. Otherwise, nothing will get done.

Engebretson: Just to piggyback on that, one way we could appeal to them is to mention that in order to make campus better, this needs to be done. A lot of people our age are aware of sustainability and it is unattractive to prospective students to not be pushing for that.

Byrne: I don't know if you all remember your campus tours- but they talk about the river, marsh and bluffs as a huge part of it and we want to preserve our natural beauty. Not being sustainable doesn't match that importance that we put on nature.

Naviochick: If this isn't something you are pushing for as a representative of the student body; I feel like you don't know what the student body wants. It is very important to a lot of people and I know that it is a value that many of our students hold.

Weghorn: If we are to push for this, shoot big and ask how we will be listened to and dealt with in the future. Maybe put something in there.

L'Ecuyer: I worry that if we try shooting too big, it will be taken as a sign of disrespect and they won't take us seriously in the future.

Wiza: I support sustainability. I am just saying that we need to develop the language. Olivia and I will advocate for this in the future. I would like this to be completed before JPB meets this next week. I am for what the student senate wants and I will support whatever we pass. I would like to have this done to dicuss it at thier meeting next week which is before our meeting next Wednesday because they don't meet again until the 24th.

Zwettler: So are people okay with the language in general? I would like to hear some other voices on this specifically about that.

Byrne: Would it be helpful to do small groups to talk about this?

Wiza: Yes, I fully support that.

Ahnen: Yeah, we can do that now for 5 minutes. Talk about language and what you think. Since it needs to be done tonight. Then we will come back for normal discussion.

ii. Return to Large group discussion

Wheat: The wording seems very strict and maybe we could put something in there where we could refer back to this in the future?



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Wiza: This document was written by the governing boards. We don't have the funds resources and time to redo the whole strategic plan.

Byrne: Could we change the length to match the length of the renewed tuition freeze? If we did that, it would be saying that "we know that money is tight rright now but after that is theoretically ending, we want this to be the first thing considered."

Wiza: Do you mean revisiting adding a new pillar of sustainability or to redo the whole strategic plan?

Byrne: I would say the whole thing but are there any other thoughts?

Wiza: I thought you could make amendment to this resolution saying that but I think it depends on what the other governing bodies do.

Ringgenberg: I just want to reiterate that strategic plans are a lot of work, it takes a lot of people getting together, but they can be modified along the way. Right now we aren't prepared to spend the resources to do this so we just need to make this one be in effect for longer.

Wiza: Do you think it is appropriate to add that?

Engebretson: I like what Yer put in the chat and that could almost be put in as its own chunk in the resolution.

Wiza: Does everyone understand the time money and resources put into a plan? If we add too much, it will almost certainly not get through because the university can't spend that much right now.

Ringham: Just one concern I have is if we try to invest too much in a new pillar, it will be almost spread too thin and each pillar won't get as much attention. Sustainability is important but we need to realize that our D and I initiatives are also important.

Xiong: With enough conversation, I think a good point was brought up that this is the reason we have BIPOC positions on campus. If we could amend it and take out the pillar part, that would make more sense based on that the university thinks. Just say to add sustainability instead of a new pillar of sustainability.

Wiza: Adding a pillar is going to be going expensive. JCES can't just get together and make that. So, what if we just integrated sustainability to each pillar? Advisors, what is the time, cost and resources of this?

Ringgenberg: I am not quite sure what that would mean.



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Vitaliano: It is a good idea. It all depends on the goals that are ultimately developed. What is a cause that is associated with that goal? It is about the strategic plan group being able to get together and accomplish that. We would need an influx of funding or a redistribution of it in order to add anything.

Engebretson: I am just curious, has La Crosse made any commitment statements like by 2030, we will do this?

Wiza: If we integrate sustainability into what we already have, it will save money in the long and short run in all areas of our campus. Write that. Say that we want to integrate sustainability, thus reducing cost.

Engebretson: Is there any way that money could be redistributed from the green fund to cover these sustainable costs of the strategic plan?

Ericson: No. it could be integrated. And all I care about is that sustainability is included in some way, shape or form. I think it is easier to word it by saying pillar than just being vague.

Wiza: It took so much work to develop these pillars. We already know that we want new goals to come out of this. We would be open to hear new goals having our students learn about community engagement and environmental racism and those would be welcome if we just integrate sustainability into each pillar.

Ahnen: What if we don't say how it needs to be included, we just say that it needs to be included in it. We don't want to say "pillar" because that isn't feasible. What if we just say that it needs to be included.

Ericson: I yield to Amy Schweiner.

Schweiner: I am on community engagement council and that is one of the pillars of the current strategic plan. I think that they could easily include sustainability in there. They are re-writing a bunch of documents and that could be integrated very easily.

Ericson: I could see a sustainability coordinator falling under that potentially.... and yes, I really like what Olivia said.

Ahnen: Do we like what this says now?

Schauberger: I'm not sure how feasible this is but I know that the US Department of Education and EPA have grants for sustainability. Department of education has a green ribbon school program and grants to fund those sorts of things.



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Zwettler: Cate, I know you are advocating for us, but I want to make sure that this isn't the last conversation that we have about this. I want it to be made absolutely clear that we still need to have continued input.

Wiza: Yes, of course.

- iii. Changes to the document pass unanimously.
- iv. Resolution passes unanimously.

XI. Discussion

a. Student Employment FY22

i. Zwettler: AIDAC allocates funds according to the pillars to 12 entities across campus. This year we are short 24 thousand and we are facing a problem where we need to make budget cuts. There has been one case from the library they need to decrease the student employment budget rather than collection contracts because that would be more expensive in the long run. Should we write a resolution protecting student employment even thought that could be a problem for other stuff?

Zwettler: It could be more of cutting down hours than eliminating positions.

Schauberger: To me, it feels like we don't have enough information to make an informed decision.

Wiza: I think the big idea here is that Jared wants to develop something. Maybe we could start with asking if there is any interest in making a shared doc for protections? Because this could impact some people's lives drastically. We could start there and then potentially an ad hoc committee?

Zwettler: Essentially, we can't tell organizations what they can and can't cut but we can make sure that students are protected.

Byrne: I wonder if this should be something that we separate. Student employment rights and then the library issues.

Schauberger: I have an issue with some of this, like the RA strike advocated for things but we legally can't be negotiated with, something like that. It makes me concerned about if they can actually play ball with us? Of course, protecting students is important but I'm not sure what extent we can do so within the law.

Zwettler: I'm not sure about the RA thing, but if it was about unionizing that is totally different. This would be different than that since it is just a suggestion from the senate.

Schauberger: I'm just wondering to what extent we can protect these jobs? What will passing a resolution do?



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Cayo: Just to clarify things, an example of people who get funding from AIDAC are the programming-based places. This is more just the question of do we protect student jobs or do they cut programming and travel and stuff. We should protect students as a whole, but that isn't the question here. It is just this one thing.

b. Tennant's Bill of Rights

i. Cayo: Recently, Kansas City passed a universal tenant bill of rights. Stuff they covered what must be included, inclusion, security deposit, protection from complains, can't enter weapon with threats or force, etc. But we want whatever we do to fit La Crosse. Since a lot of us are renters, we want to get experiences, so we know what to include. We aren't looking at officially doing this until August, but I just want to open discussion about it now.

Ericson: Could you send us what Kansas City has done so we can look at that?

Cayo: I sent the link about how it came about and what the act itself is saying. Of course, we will edit this to fit La Crosse and its issues.

Schauberger: I do know that a lot of this is Wisconsin law or federal code, so it feels redundant. What would be new and unique to it?

Cayo: Just from my individual experiences, Wisconsin can deny housing for queer people and it has happened numerous times when I have tried to move in with my partner. Also, not all rental properties include certain amenities, so this would ensure some of that. We could say that they must meet ADA standards so people with disabilities have many options for places to live in. I have been collecting stories and I have heard of landlords entering by force or evicting tenants for reporting the landlords. It would make security deposit interactions be fair, add that they can't increase rent for a period of time. Placing a cap on security deposits, stop forcing people to sign a lease within 24 hours. That's a short list. There is a lot within legislation that should technically be covered but it isn't enforced, and this could change it.

Ahnen: A few people had to leave because we are running late. If this isn't time sensitive, would you like to table it for next week or not? Because then you could have more people here to hear from.

Cayo: Yeah, that sounds good! I would also love to drop my email in the chat so y'all can talk to me that way.

XII. Announcements XIII. Adjournment