



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **Wednesday, February 17th**

Time and Location: **6:00pm; Zoom**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:01
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Approved unanimously
 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Approved unanimously
- IV. Guest Speakers
 - a. Chancellor Joe Gow
 - i. Gow: I hope everyone is taking care! It is week three in our fifteen-week semester so only twelve more to go! Hold things together! I don't know if you follow the news, but other colleges have come back and have seen a spike in cases, and we don't want to do that here. Thank you all for getting tested and it is looking good with the numbers so far. It isn't pleasant to wear mask and distance and do all this online stuff, but we will get through this and I want to thank you for doing your part. We are really doing well. Once we get vaccines, we will get some on campus the logistics will be a challenge, but for now just keep getting tested. I will be testing every week since I am on campus every day like you are, so I am getting tested as well. Keep doing the safety measures for the rest of the semester because even with vaccines, it is touchy. In case you didn't know, the county is now on medium level for the number of cases. If that stays well, we could be looking at an in-person commencement this spring, possibly at the La Crosse center. That would be great because it is a highlight for everyone involved. There will be no handshaking, but it will be good. Unfortunately, there will be no spectators but just for video. The graduates will be in person though, and everyone will get your own moment. That is important from the many many students I have heard from. As long as we keep being good with our safety measures, that will be more and more practical.
I got your resolution on the strategic plan and sustainability issues. It is wonderful that you all said that it needs to be improved. I visited with JCES on Friday and Andrew Ericson provided some language to put into the current plan. We will take that to the JPB a week from today and talk about how best to do that. With COVID, we don't know what our finances will be like, so it is hard to plan. Hopefully, enrollment will hold up and we will get some good budget funding from the state. Talk about strategic planning after all that. The current pillars were formulated by vice chancellors. Taking stock of where we will be in the future and then after COVID we can talk about where we want to go. Any questions?

Ericson: With Evers' proposed budget, it would give \$160 million to UW system but still tuition freeze. Do you think that's a fair deal?



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Gow: Well, he used to be the state superintendent, so he knows about education. He knows what we are about. He is basically staying the freeze tuition for two more years. That will make ten years total of this being in effect. The state will fill the freeze, that is fill in the gap of money you aren't getting from tuition since it is frozen. While this is a great budget, it still has to go through the legislature. Tommy Thompson, the current UW system president is a good advocate for us with his experience in the legislature. Once the budget is finalized in the summer, we will know. This is my 8th budget cycle here at UWL and this is the best start that we have had. The best budget for the UW system was twenty years ago when Thompson was governor. He will Tell legislature that it is very important to fund higher education.

Fisher: How do you feel that sustainability can fit into the strategic plan?

Gow: I was surprised that it wasn't already there. Everyone says that it is important, and I agree. In 2016, we had a meeting about where the university should go, and the current four pillars is what we came up with. These represent a formal commitment. It is not just me that does that, we make sure everyone is on board. The language from JCES is really good and we can make that commitment in the future. The question is just the funding. We just have to wait and see what enrollment and state funding looks like for the future. Our university is one of the strongest financially because we haven't had to lay off or furlough our staff. Hopefully we can hold that going forward. I would be honored to make those investments in sustainability. I know a previous project that I am proud of is the solar panels on Centennial that were paid for by our soft drink contract. It heats all the water, so every time I am in there and washing my hands, I think about that and that's really cool.

Fisher: An email was sent from faculty senate asking you to approve the strategic plan without sustainability, do you plan to sign it?

Gow: The student senate version of the resolution is different from faculty senate's. That is healthy because it shows the different interests. I was pleased to see that students had added sustainability and said wait a minute, we should look into this. We will talk about it at JPB and see what we think. I hope that people can have the knowledge to see why it is a good idea. I want to hear from someone who thinks it isn't a good idea to include this. I haven't heard anyone say why it is bad, just positive stuff so far. The university staff and academic staff council still need to weigh in. I think we have captured the big issues fairly well now that we have sustainability, and I don't know what else would be overlooked.

Zwettler: If the legislature takes down the amount that the governor has proposed (which is very likely), what would be able to do if the state doesn't give us the funding we need/want?



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Gow: There are some things in the budget for the UW system as a whole and a few things that are particular to UWL. Specific to UWL is Prairie Springs part two building. We will be watching that one closely. President Thompson knows how important that is to us so hopefully that will happen. The governor's proposal will probably get trimmed down, like you said. The next JPB and cabinet meeting will talk about modelling with the budgets and what that would look like in certain scenarios. The only thing for certain for the budget is there will be a tuition freeze, which is good for students. At UWL, we have always kept enrollment strong and that is what we need to keep doing. Thanks to admissions, vanguard, and word of mouth, we have always had a large number of new freshmen. Funding will ebb and flow, but enrollment is always important. Pandemic has put us down quite a few students so there is less money but hopefully we will be able to get that back up once things clear up.

Fisher: This is just more of a personal thing, but you probably have heard that UWLSA has been working on a scholarship for women of color and this year we are doing an online fundraiser for it. I was wondering if you would be able to reach out to students and such, to increase visibility.

Gow: If it is a scholarship, I am happy to help! I do it all the time with the foundation and I think it is really cool that it this one is student-inspired. Well thanks for having me and thank you for doing your part in controlling the spread. Hopefully by fall we will be able to be back together in person again.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President:** Cate Wiza

- i. Went to JPB exec to discuss sustainability and the strategic plan, whether they will reaffirm the strategic plan. Academic staff chose to support the student senate version and also still support the overall thing of the strategic plan. University staff aren't meeting again until March 8 and we don't know how they will vote. Faculty senate is firm on supporting the first version. They also sent an email to Joe Gow asking him to make a decision and I'm not sure how he will choose. We put it on our JPB agenda for next week. Andrew is going to come and do his presentation at that meeting. I hope we can really push for integrating sustainability in the plan. I made it clear that Olivia and I would strongly support the student version.
- ii. I have been working with Secretary Webster on a document that outlines the process and responsibilities of the chair it will have the link to open meetings calendar, guidelines for minutes, who to send them to, and sample minutes. There's the option that she does of the word for word transcript, or the example that I put there of just important notes, motions, and votes. Keep it as straightforward as possible. I hope to put this in the bylaws changes for an example. I will share this document after the meeting, and we can discuss.

b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen

- i. I'm finishing up the final committee list for the semester. I don't want to have to update this again— so please email me tonight if you can't make your



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

current committee assignments. I also need someone to sit on the Title IX advisory board, so if you're interested please send me an email for more information.

- c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
 - i. Like I mentioned, the scholarship fundraiser will be starting in March. We are having our first meeting with the foundation on February 25. I talked with Holly about creating content and branding for that so soon, I ask you all to keep a look out for the content. Posts will be on social media from student association. Share when you can. It is really important that we all take part in getting the word out. Just a quick share on your socials will get the word out so ppl will give us money. MSO senators- Director Evans has sent an email about that and how you all can help. Please respond.
- d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
 - i. City clerks say that voter turnout was low on the recent election. After the 2020 election, people are just tired. We are narrowed down to two candidates for mayor and state superintendent of education.
 - ii. I know that UWL housing sent out an email about putting together a residence life director's council so check that out if interested.
 - iii. Like Chancellor Gow had said, Evers made some preliminary budget proposals, but the legislature is probably going to take the good parts out.
- e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
 - i. Thanks for voting! Get a plan ready for the next election on April 6th!
 - ii. There is also a blood drive at the U tomorrow and today so check that out if you are able to!
- f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
 - i. Black history fact- I would like to acknowledge Margie Richards, an environmentalist from Louisiana. She grew up by a chemical plant and got involved in the movement after some accidents there killed many people and released a lot of toxins. She began to fight against Shell, the owner of the plant, to get them to be held responsible. In 2000 she won a landmark victory against them resulting in their need to reduce 30% of emissions and pay for relocation of the community. Acknowledge her and all the environmental justice and racism present in the unequal effects of environmental problems and all the impacts of black and brown people in the field.
 - ii. I am still workshopping with the LIT student organizers, researching and tweaking our resolution that will come through senate sometime soon.
 - iii. Campus climate is hiring SEEDs for the new year. If you are interested in teaching about social justice, look into applying!
 - iv. I will send out an email to all MSO senators, like Faith mentioned, so please respond.
- g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
- h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers
 - i. Fill out the green fund doodle poll ASAP please if you are on that committee.
 - ii. Keep thinking of any Green Fund ideas you have!

VII. Advisor Reports

- a. Ringgenberg: You should think about inviting the two mayoral candidates into a meeting



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

in March.

The OZZI program has taken off like crazy. I am very impressed with Andrew and Jake's work.

Like Chancellor Gow mentioned, all of our students are doing well with testing and the results are great. All students should be complemented- I am very proud of everyone.

- b. Ericson: I was at an SFS meeting last night and it was brought up that in the Union, the disposable masks are bagged and the rest of them aren't. In other buildings, they are just hanging up. Is there a reason for that?
- c. Ringgenberg: From the beginning, we wanted to be careful and it is just a safety thing. We had staff to do that at info center.

One more update: last week, we took the upper level of the eCafe and made it available for roommates to sit together and eat. Hasn't gotten a lot of traffic yet but I hope people will start doing that soon.

VIII. Committee & Organizational Reports

- a. Ericson: From JCES, Gow came and we talked about sustainability and the possibility it will be on the strategic plan. It has been a long road; people have been fighting for a sustainability coordinator on campus for years. Those people have said that he has been talking about this like he hasn't before. I am optimistic that we will go in the right direction. As for the green fund- OZZI is going well. Jake and I tabled out in Whitney and got people signed up. Looking forward to getting more people involved in that program.
- b. Cayo: There will be an allyship training coming up from pride center. Look at Facebook or Instagram for the link. The campus climate survey was sent out. It will take about 20-30 minutes, but you don't have to do it all in one sitting. When you complete it, you are eligible for a drawing for an Amazon gift card. We use these results to help us create programming to uplift marginalized communities.
- c. Zwettler: We will be having a mayoral debate thing, but the time and date is TBD.
- d. Xiong: Student Services and Buildings committee met, and we discussed how students are in the rec but not social distancing and trying to fix that. Also, that the Rec and Mitchell will be different for now. Before COVID, students could use them interchangeably, but now the Rec is for students and Mitchell is for athletes. We also discussed dining concerns with vegetarian and vegan options along with the search for the new Director of Recreation- they have candidates selected now.

IX. Unfinished Business

a. SA2021-033

- i. Ahnen: This is approving the AIDAC FY22 budget. I will open the floor for discussion after Jared introduces it.
- ii. Zwettler: We have less money due to enrollment going down and that led us to some problems. In the end we cut somewhere between 22 and 24 thousand from the budget. This resolution goes over who gets this funding and such. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Ericson: I know at some point we discussed cutting student hours. Is that affected by this?

Zwettler: There is a potentially small decrease. The library is outside of AIDAC.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

We fund the extra one or two hours later than their funding provides already, and that might get impacted. Other orgs like the learning center, the tutor hours will go down with the budget cuts, but it really varies from program to program.

Cayo: Just to clarify- if you have issues, if you think that one entity doesn't have enough money, we can talk about this because this is a lot of money that we needed to cut so please ask questions about things. Yield to Faith.

Fisher: I know how hard budget cuts can be since I was on this committee last year, so I'll just ask for the fun of it, why was money cut from violence prevention?

Zwettler: when we got the original budget, we knew orgs would take a hit and we asked all entities to trim funds in their budgets wherever possible. Some of these are reflections of the cuts that they were willing to take. Violence prevention was willing to take that much when they gave us their budget.

Ericson: When thinking about cuts, did you think about making cuts proportional to the amount of money they are allocated? And were additional cuts needed after they gave you what they thought they could cut?

Zwettler: we did consider that, but upon further investigation, some orgs were willing to cut more than that amount to decrease the impact on other orgs. That's what led us to our system. That didn't get us all the way, but it got us about halfway to the goal. We took into consideration their funding sources that any organizations might get from other places. In the end, it was hard because they all are important and are essential to campus.

Julson: With the cuts to the library, can they get funding from outside sources? It is really important to students working and studying there that it remains open as long as possible.

Zwettler: Their extended hours total about 11 hours per week. Also, the access to special collections is funded by AIDAC. The cut would affect just those few hours.

Cayo: I would like to yield to Director Fisher.

Fisher: Because I have been on AIDAC, I am curious as to why there was a big cut from campus climate considering we haven't cut that previously. Lots of student employees and they often use all their money we give them. I thought they were in a position where they couldn't lose money, but maybe something changed.

Bryne: We didn't want to cut from them. It is important work that they do. This number was a result of secondary request to entities after initial presentations and



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

that is what they came up with.

Zwettler: The number they come back with original was \$1500. If they took that small of a cut, it would impact library and job advancement stuff

Bryne: We tried to save as much of their stuff as we could.

Ericson: There are three programs with no cuts. Are those the programs where the funding is just for employees?

Zwettler: The Pride center budget is solely for salary and benefits, the School of Education is for mostly salaries some supplies, admissions diversity recruiter- mostly was salary but also provide travel and food to students visiting campus. They said 1,000 dollars for that would be the cut that they were willing to take for that travel stuff. But we wanted to keep that because it could be the difference in enrollment for those students from marginalized communities.

iii. Passes with one abstention

X. New Business

a. SA2021-034

i. Ahnen: new graduate senator coming in this semester, so this is just making that official. I will take sponsors.

ii. Passes unanimously

iii. Wiza and Baumann: swearing in

XI. Discussion

a. Enter breakout rooms to discuss discussion points for next meeting

XII. Announcements

a. Jeske: Apply for SEEDS in campus climate if interested!

b. Schauberger: I contacted Ron Kind and he wants to visit us March 3- that is Student Association as a whole. That is something that we could look forward to.

XIII. Adjournment

a. 7:34