



# UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

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## Student Senate Agenda

Date: **Wednesday, March 3rd**

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

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:01
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Minutes
    - i. Pass unanimously
  - b. Approval of Agenda
    - i. Ericson: I would like to add a discussion point about a trash pick-up.
    - ii. Pass unanimously
- IV. Guest Speakers
  - a. Rep. Ron Kind
    - i. Kind: Thanks for this opportunity. I am looking forward to when I can come visit on campus. This last year has been a lot and I apologize that it is robbing you of an experience but there now is a light at the end of the tunnel. We are still asking for masks, take precautions. Congress wants to take everything seriously and fire up the economy, so you have a job to graduate into. I want to make it easier for people to find quality childcare and make it easy for people to get into the workforce.  
Senate needs to approve the new COVID budget. I have been working with chancellors in the UW system to hear what they want. I have 6 of 11 higher education for the UW system in my district. I take that responsibility seriously, and I want to reauthorize the higher education bill. I grew up on the northside of La Crosse. I qualified for work study, Pell grants, took out loans, and I had the most disgusting job on campus cleaning toilets. I did that two hours a day while playing football. I was a first-generation college student, I had no one to tell me how to do things.  
We have a responsibility to invest in the future of our country and make it easier to you all to pay for school. We need to get rid of the ticking time bomb that is student debt crisis. We need broadband expansion, fix this digital divide highlighted in the times of COVID. We have to be investing in all people, leaving no one behind. Invest in the infrastructure bill, climate change green code, new tax code, renewable energy credit. The US has a responsibility to lead the world to a carbon free future, hopefully in a bipartisan way. The For The People Act will pass this week, hopefully. This will make sure that everyone can easily vote in elections. Here in Washington, we show attention to who shows up to vote. Your generation's problems would show up more in congress if you all show up to vote.  
Campaign finance reform is in that bill as well. Ethics and accountability, tightening of laws, election security, and all that. If you all have ever been to Washington, I'm sure you wouldn't recognize it now, with the razor wire and National Guard troops on hand. After the riots on January 6<sup>th</sup>, there are more boots on the ground here than in the middle east. We have gotten word that there



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are threats for tomorrow, March 4<sup>th</sup> since that is the original inauguration date in the constitution. We are told to wrap things up in Congress today, so we can get out of here before tomorrow.

Ericson: Thanks for being here. I have heard about climate change as a 20-year-old from the day I was born, until yesterday, I have been told that it will change my life and how I live it. I like the Green Act, and tax incentives. Those are good, but not enough. What are your thoughts about next steps?

Kind: The Green Act isn't the only thing, energy in commerce introduced their plan yesterday, the Farm Bill is coming up for reauthorization soon. Carbon capture is something that I am thinking about helping the situation in regard to farms. I was on a zoom with the clean tech coalition throughout the country, and we already have technology that needs to be employed. If we do what these people are saying, we can reduce carbon by 1/3 overnight. This would really help us meet the Paris goals. People your age are way out ahead of policymakers on this stuff. Engage on this issue. Your voices are powerful, it is your future and if you need more convincing, we have had more category 4 hurricanes, flooding and wildfires, extreme climate stuff in recent history. I don't know what more proof people need. We still have time, not much, but we do have the ability to make change.

Ericson: We have a lot of different interests in Wisconsin. We are of course known for our dairy, but it produces methane. In terms of places where we get food, cows are one of the worst. How do you balance climate interests and farming?

Kind: I have been looking into scientific innovations to reduce methane emissions from the cows themselves. Biogas facilities on farms is on my bill. This would mean that we can better control the manure, leading to less pollution in air and water, and we can turn it into energy. In the last appropriation bill, it included that legislation in it. There are answers out there, but we need you guys to continue to figure it out for us.

Zwettler: With regards to higher education funding and the COVID response bill: it was \$40 billion or so. My question is about how is it going to be dispersed? What impact we will see in Wisconsin? Is it tuition assistance or going to university to make up for tuition loss?

Kind: Thank you for wearing your mask, Jared. I never thought one of the hardest parts of the pandemic was going to get people to mask up because it is so simple. Research is showing that this is the best way to prevent the spread, even if inoculated. To answer your question, half of that money is for student assistance- rent, tuition. I recently talked to students at Western I learned how the CARES act was crucial to help individuals continue their education. We know it has an impact, but we want to make sure that part of it goes back to students.



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Some of it goes to cleaning and such at the universities. And of course, we are working with the Biden administration for some student debt relief. If less than \$10,000 in debt, they can default because of COVID and its complications. We are hoping to pursue a plan to help get that. Get the shots, get the immunity so lived can get back to normal.

Zwettler: Ron Johnson is up for reelection in 2022. Looking forward to your plans, do you plan to run for his seat?

Kind: Right know it is all hands on deck dealing with COVID, getting students in the classroom. Last year was brutal with campaign season. The American people need to take a deep breath, it can't be a perpetual campaign. Let me put a pitch in for public service. Local level, state level maybe even some of you are interested in running for federal office, there may be the first female president here even. I believe that it is a noble calling. It looks ugly with polarizing and angsty, but that isn't the way it should be. If you get enough people who agree with that and say it enough, it can change. So, I am focusing on COVID and then later we will think about reelection.

Cayo: Would you be interested in sponsoring a \$15 minimum wage bill?

Kind: I would like to say that I have. We want to make it at least pace with inflation \$7.25 isn't livable. The Democrats will be supportive, it is difficult to get the Republicans on board. Let Ron Johnson's office know that we need about 10 republicans to side with us. \$7.25 in Wisconsin is an embarrassment. People can't live on that. We should already be doing that as a state, let alone as a federal level. Increase it like the surrounding states, and they didn't have any adverse effects.

I would like to encourage interning at my congressional office in the area. It is located right across the street from the Hollywood theatre downtown. It is fun, looks good on resume and you can learn a lot. Give my office a call if you are interested.

Schauberger: I have a question about general government spending. I have seen several news articles about the \$2 trillion spent on the F35 project. Even the Department of Defense says that it is a failure and the F16 not going well either, so they have wasted around \$2 trillion and probably more. I know there is that sense of waste in the military. I have seen it personally; I was in the National Guard. They said my Gore-Tex jacket was \$300 but I found it online for \$100. We supply the military with trillions of dollar programs, but don't have the money for more social programs in general. How do you think we can change that?

Kind: You are spot on. Being in the Guard, you probably have a lot of experience in the issue of military excess. Congress hasn't been that serious or responsive to the Pentagon's expenses. Every year they submit a list of redundant stuff and it is



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hard for Congress to go through and work to fix that. Just like I am a critic of large agribusiness money in the Farm Bill, I haven't made many friends in that area. We could go to a lot of areas for savings if the military is audited correctly.

Schauberger: I have another question; this one is about American research in general. I am passionate about space exploration. NASA in Bush said we would get to Mars in 2033, but Every four years the organization gets completely redone. Everything is a mess right now. Especially with Lockheed Martin. Russia wants to take their part with Russian capsules take their part and China does as well. Other countries are pushing way ahead of us in terms of Mars efforts. Is there any way for more stability in NASA's budget?

Kind: I would highly recommend you read Moonshot by David Brankley. It is very inspirational and explains the politics behind space funding and exploration. He does a good job of explaining everything. You are right. We do need to be there. It is the next frontier. We need to be there, but it is expensive. We just made contact with Voyager 2 outside of our solar system recently. It takes 38 days for data to go and come back. I'm sure you all know about the landing of Perseverance. We now have robots on Mars. I know we still have goals of humans on Mars, but it is 6 months each way and we need to figure out long term space travel first. I know the Biden administration is committed to ramping up that program. The STEM that comes from that has economic benefits back home, leads to an explosion of innovation.

Kind: The end is near of COVID, congrats to seniors for graduating among the chaos, and for the rest of you all, hang in there.

b. Blythe McConaughey

- i. McConaughey: I am very grateful to be invited here. It is great to see you all here, even if it is virtual. I think it is awesome to meet as many people as I am. I am the violence prevention specialist, my office in Graff hall if you ever want to see me; and my job is to be there for victims of violence. Students, faculty, whoever. I am 100% confidential I have a committee of other confidential resources too. I try to be there for everyone regardless of what is going on. I reach out to campus partners if I don't know the answer. I recently took over for Ingrid Peterson and it is great to be back at UWL. The reason I say "back" is because I graduated from UWL in 2005. My role is mostly to do presentations like this, just meeting people and also educational presentations, so you might see me in some of your classrooms once we get back in person as well. I do a lot of advocacy as well. I want to clarify that I am not a therapist or social worker. What I am is a good listener and I help people find the resources they need. I help develop coping skills, helping with things like nightmares, triggers, flashbacks, and different ways of dealing with trauma. I help with legal advocacy, if they want a restraining order, report to police, I help with the whole legal process. I also advocate with medical staff if it was a sexual assault. I partner with both Mayo and Gundersen, I have colleagues at both of those places. I just want to be here for everyone. My door is usually



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literally open unless I am speaking with someone, and in that case, just send me an email. I would be happy to hear about anything you have, concerns, questions, changes, etc.

Xiong: I am just wondering how you would advocate for a student leasing with someone else and is having problems, this is totally hypothetical. Would it be more res life or other stuff?

McConaughey: It would depend on the situation. In my 2 months on campus, if there is a conflict with a roommate in a hall, I would get permission to talk to residence life on behalf of the student. See about getting a room change, some protocol put in place. If it came down to it, partner with title IX staff. If it is off campus, then that is a different situation. I would try to help with the housing issue. Get them back to going to class and getting a happy life.

Cayo: About education and programming, if we had the funding difference and staff, we would have two different groups, one would be for advocacy and one for education. Since that isn't the case and it is just you, I was wondering what stuff you would like to bring to light in education. What would you educate on and how would you reach out?

McConaughey: I am looking forward to providing trainings on the importance of consent, and alcohol-involved assaults with the health center. Talk about healthy relationships, boundaries, consent. The key to preventing a lot of campus sexual conflicts is just educating on consent. It won't put an end to it, but it will put a dent in it. I want to have a focus on LGBTQ and students of color. Not too many students from those groups have been seeking out my programs and I want everyone to feel supported. I want to outreach to those other communities especially. How? I am not entirely sure. I would do social media. I can't believe that violence prevention doesn't have any social media! I want to do a little bit of that. But I will happily take any ideas that you all have.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President:** Cate Wiza

- i. Discussion around the strategic plan next week Wednesday at 1:15 and will last for about an hour and a half. We will talk about language of the chancellor's charge and the future of that.
- ii. Thank you to students who brought concerns about the printer in the senate office. I think Dr. Larry put in that request before he left.
- iii. I am looking into increasing pay for cabinet members, along with AIDAC and SUFAC chairs for their hard work. No guarantees.
- iv. In regard to our carryover request, we were looking into the guest speaker Cam Jones. We don't want to go that route anymore because a survey was sent out and it asked students if they would attend a virtual speaker and 70% said no. As for other options, I will probs be working with Senator Cayo and Olivia. You may get an email from me with possible options. Let me know if you have ideas.



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- v. With our discussion on the Respondus program. I talked to Betsy and she said that 42 faculty members use the Respondus monitor. That is the webcam and such. I scheduled a meeting with her to have a more in-depth discussion next week. We will talk about what Sophie brought up last week. UWL is working closely with system to get a similar program called Honorlock. It sounds like it is expensive, but Madison likes it. Our contract with Respondus is up in June so hopefully there is a window of time to change things. I want you all to research it so we can provide our student opinion. I know that Platteville got it this year or last year and they didn't have a student voice in that matter. They have expressed concerns more with the strong internet connection needed with that. I know that I had problems with that during an exam today.
  1. Byrne: Thanks for doing that research. Should we still do the resolution tonight?
  2. Wiza: Yes, just discuss it, look at it. We don't have to vote on it today. I am meeting with Betsy next Tuesday so I will have more info next week.
  3. Schauburger: Regardless of lockdown browser type, all of them get really into your operating system. They really get into your whole system which is a big privacy concern for me. It doesn't actually prevent cheating. You just run it on a virtual machine and boom. It just seems extremely Orwellian to monitor everyone like that.
- b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen
  - i. Tomorrow I will send out a little survey write down a discussion point that you thought of but haven't yet. It could just be something that you are interested in talking about so just put something in there so that way next week, if we don't have a discussion point, I can pull from this list and we don't waste meeting time.
- c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
  - i. Faculty senate last week talked about how we are getting ready for in person commencement. It would look different, just the graduates. No guests, no shaking hands but Gow was talking about how he believes that it is very important to have this experience.
  - ii. Working on the vaccination center with the county, so a lot of students and staff can be vaccinated. They aren't sure about priorities and who will get it first. Talked with Bob Hetzel and he said that we have received CARES act funds, so if you need help with financial stability, don't be afraid to reach out and get help. There is a lot of money there.
  - iii. The WOC scholarship took off on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Please share the links the graphics, I will be putting the link in the chat box to where you can donate. If you know anyone who might be interested in donating, that would be great. This started in 2017 and we want to keep it going. It is our duty to support it since it is a Student Association initiative.
- d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
  - i. State legislature is passing some bills. Not a lot of them pertain to UWL or to us really.
  - ii. A few senators an Wiza have an interesting resolution concerning the tuition freeze, that will be coming up to senate soon, hopefully.



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- e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
    - i. Congrats to Faith and Camoya with the scholarship. Good job on that. I know you worked really hard.
    - ii. Rent College Pad- the contract is going forward, so the off-campus housing website is changing soon. I will send out a survey about landlord satisfaction towards the end of lease term.
  - f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
    - i. Scholarship has been mainly what I am working with. I will meet with Barbara Stewart to discuss that tomorrow.
    - ii. I am also preparing for the senate training coming up.
  - g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
    - i. Promote the scholarship on social media! Hoping to have a good turn out even with our weird year.
  - h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers
    - i. Green fund is scheming a few interesting projects including reusable bags, expanding the OZZI, expanding no touch faucets in the U, if you want to learn more, just ask. Green fund time is established officially, and we will be meeting on Teams.
- VII. Advisor Reports
- a. Burke: It is my 3<sup>rd</sup> day here! I don't have a report. I am immersing myself into everything coming my way. It has been a really warm welcome. I just wanted to use this time to introduce myself. I am coming from Northeast Illinois University in Chicago. I have done this work for a long time. I did pursue a masters in secondary education leadership with student affairs emphasis and got that in two years. I adopted my son, got on a waiting list, and did grad school while I waited, and 5 weeks in, I got my son. This week was his first week at elementary school, so it is a lot of firsts for me this week. I thank you for the warm welcome!
- VIII. Committee & Organizational Reports
- a. Ericson: For the Green Fund, we are in the interview process for the social media position. We should have someone by next week. For JCES, we passed that resolution for divestment in the fall and now a faculty member is writing a resolution for that support as well. UW-Madison passed a faculty resolution in support of that divestment as well.
  - b. Cayo: Pride center- allyship training on the 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. Social media has information. Tomorrow there will be a trans and non-binary student panel, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:30. The information for that is on their website and social as well. SUFAC decided not to open up one shot requests this year. Those are usually used for one time-purchases, but many entities can just be going into their surplus from this year to purchase those things. Take the campus climate survey. Tell your constituents. It is a bit of time to do but you can stop and come back so you don't have to do it all at once.
  - c. Zwettler: Free speech committee narrowed down dates for mayoral debate. It will be at 6pm on 29<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> final decision is in the works so keep an eye out for that.
- IX. Unfinished Business
- a. **SA2021-036**
    - i. Ahnen: This is the resolution to approve FY22 Green Fund rate. Are there any questions? It is open for discussion.



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Xiong: I saw the green bikes on the budget and I was wondering if anyone has been using them?

Ericson: I'm not sure, but I can look into it. I haven't heard much from the green bike people. I can ask rec staff about it. I know that program has funding until next year, but it looks like they aren't using the money. I will look into it and talk about it next week.

Naviochick: Essentially, we wanted to keep it the same because we don't want to take away money from grants in the future, even though there were concerns that the amount in there was getting high.

ii. Passes with two abstentions

X. New Business

a. SA2021-037

- i. Byrne: We had a discussion point last week about Respondus and the problems associated with it. Hopefully we can pass this along to faculty and they can find an alternative. There are a few things highlighted for questions about formatting, and how to best get our message across to faculty senate.

Ericson: I like the resolution. Concerns with the 'whereas' you have highlighted. Just talking at JCES, with classes online it is easier for us to cheat. Maybe we should remove that. Don't want to push them and say that they *should* do anything.

Byrne: We wanted to just show them that we are thinking about alternatives.

Zwettler: Yeah, that is why we highlighted it. Weren't sure what to do. I would be okay with just removing it. Most of the resolution is being worked out so please just bring up your opinion.

Schauberger: I have done more research. If you reverse engineer the program, it is essentially a rootkit, it bypasses a bunch of stuff to do stuff a program normally wouldn't be able to do. It constantly scans the memory on your computer itself to make sure nothing else is running. It leads to issues with performance and privacy. If you have any other program running, it will notice it right away. Not the best thing ever. It definitely isn't that Gucci at all, honestly is kind of a problem.

Cayo: I just have comments about resolution title, you should be as specific as possible. Name the issue. I also think we could go into more depth about 'concept-based' exams. Like what is that?

Zwettler: My professor this fall in math allowed for us to answer in not straightforward ways. Forced you to know material well. I think we certainly could adjust the title and define that if that was an option.





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Cayo: Were people interested in finding an alternative or just getting rid of the use entirely?

Byrne: With Respondus, people can just use phones. We can't ask to get rid of it because the problem is just getting rid of the monitor, not the whole program.

Cayo: So okay, my only concerns are to be more specific with title, and define concept based. In the highlighted "therefore be it resolved" telling faculty senate to investigate other options, change language a little bit. We can't be hard with them because they can easily throw it out and say no.

Byrne: I put the original title in the chat: Resolution to recommend changes to usage of Respondus lockdown browser". I think we can take the second to last 'whereas' out. Unless anyone has a strong opinion on it.

Ericson: The last 'therefore be it resolved', I think we can change it because they may not like that. We want to deter them from using this.

Schauberger (in chat): I want to point out the UC-Berkeley actually completely banned online exam proctoring due to it being not inclusive at all [https://academicsenate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/guidance\\_and\\_recommendations\\_from\\_the\\_working\\_group\\_on\\_exams\\_and\\_proctoring.pdf](https://academicsenate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/guidance_and_recommendations_from_the_working_group_on_exams_and_proctoring.pdf) ... Information can be found here. Rates of cheating actually haven't changed, and they have studies that show that.

Zwettler: I would like to say that we should be waiting to vote on this until after Cate talks about it next week.

Cayo: Based on conversation, should we include the last sentence that opens the thing up for other lockdown browsers?

Byrne: Yes.

## XI. Discussion

### a. Electronic Textbooks

- i. Stryzewski: Textbook Rental moving to more of an online subscription-based thing. They think that it is going to happen at some point. It is currently happening at Stout. There are a lot of pros and cons, so if anyone has any experiences with this sort of thing. Let me know and I can bring it back to them.

Ericson: We talked about pros and cons of eBooks. It not as draining on the eyes to have it in paper. (Internet cut out, message lost)

Zwettler: The opt-in idea Andrew mentioned was great, I like that.



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Byrne: I know that one of my friend’s textbook takes up a lot of space on their computer and makes it really slow. It is not very inclusive to those with low internet access or storage.

Nejapa-Jansen: Sometimes you have multiple books for one class and sometimes you really only use one of the books so having multiples on your computer is hard. Hard to stare at computers all day right now but once we are back in person, it would be easier to because we would be in person during the day. I know that I like using my virtual lab manual because it cost less than a paper lab manual.

Byrne: I like the ease of use of online. I am not sure if this is relevant but I’ve had several professors who don’t let you have your laptop open during lecture and I wonder if that would be annoying if your book was online and they wouldn’t let you have it open.

b. Trash pick-up

- i. Ericson: As the snow melts, there has been an abundance of trash everywhere. There is potential for Student Association to organize a trash pickup sometime soon. Get campus involved, outside, get some key admins there, bring the community together, Kyle could show up, meet us! It would be outside so good for COVID. Potentially next Sunday? Student Association could probably buy some gloves and bags. It would be fun to see each other even if we are distanced and outside

Zwettler: I am very in favor of it.

Ericson: Do we want to just do it as Student Association or open up to broader student body?

Ringham: I would say just us, a nice networking event, but I wouldn’t be against having other people there either.

Byrne: It would be a good way to promote the election too.

Ahnen: I think it is a little too soon. If we wanted to open it up to general students, we would need more time to market it but if just us, next weekend is okay. Andrew, just email me.

XII. Announcements

- a. Ahnen: Fill out the survey I will be sending out tomorrow!  
b. Cayo: Fill out the CARES fund and the campus climate survey.  
c. Fisher: Promote the scholarship.  
d. Conway: Email about voting coming out tomorrow with a survey so fill that out as well.

XIII. Adjournment

- a. 8:05