



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **April 21st, 2021**

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

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:03
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Approved unanimously
 - b. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Cayo: I would like to add a resolution.
 - ii. Zwettler: I would like to add a discussion point called fall break.
 - iii. Approved unanimously
- IV. Guest Speakers
 - a. AJ Clauss
 - i. Clauss: Thanks! I work in campus climate office. I've been here for six years now. I know a handful of you all, but a lot of you I don't know. Our office is funded by AIDAC funding, so thank you. This office was formed when I was in the senate as a vice president. We saw a huge gap in student services, and a lack of services that helped with campus climate. We created this office through differential tuition funding. We are here to make sure that students, faculty, and staff feel welcome, safe, and valued. We are here for you all. We have some main things we do- we have the hate response team who go through the hate and bias reports, education about social justice, and especially helping with serving those with intersections of identities. I serve on the academic staff council. We help facilitate Campus Thread that is free clothing for everyone from 10-2 on Fridays at common ground.

Jeske: Does the clothing place take donations?

Clauss: Yes, we are doing that. We aren't doing a big drive this year, because we are looking for a bigger space. Student Senate can help to continue fund us, you can come to our events once we are in person again, participating in awareness through performance next spring. There are a lot of ways to support our office. You can even help by volunteering next year for the Campus Thread. We will find a way to plug you in next year.

Fitzgerald: I was wondering what space you are looking for, is it a storage space?

Clauss: We would love to be in the Union and hopefully be more accessible and hold more hours. Right now, we are lucky that we have a space at all.

Fitzgerald: I know Mitchell has a lot of unused space and that isn't ideal, but it could be used for storage if you need. I am the athletics senator so we can connect on that.



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Clauss: I know we aren't really in person right now, but we are starting to open up our offices for printing, reading, resources, hanging out, and we are here for you to talk whenever you feel safe and conformable doing so. There are normally snacks so some visit.

Cayo: Could you talk a little more about hate and bias reports?

Clauss: We have the longest hate/bias team in the area. We have a report form on the website. You can just search hate and bias report in the search on the UWL website. Our team of folks, faculty, staff, and grad students get the report. You tell as much about yourself as you want. Just put what happened, when it happened, and if you want to be contacted. You can remain anonymous if you want. We support the reporter though however they want. We use that information in our programming. If we see a trend based on a specific area, such as race and gender identity, like we are right now, we will be doing education about all of that next year.

Xiong: Are there certain hours you are open? Or is it by appointment?

Clauss: I am in the office from 8:30ish and leave around 4:30 depending so we are usually open between then. I will be gone this Friday, we are open Monday through Friday except for this one. You can drop by. If there are more than five people in the space, we ask that you come back later to maintain social distancing.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President:** Cate Wiza

i. My first item to report is about the S/U grading and the CAPS meeting. It did not go as great as I had planned on it going; I was met with a lot of resistance, more than I thought honestly. There were two awesome professors who supported it. They decided not to vote on it. There is another meeting this Friday, but I can't go so I will be spending K.C. and Jared. Here are the notes I took during that meeting: they have problems with the initial policy from spring- asked was that equitable? The term equity keeps getting misused in my opinion. They meant to use equity as equal. They were saying that not every student used S/U grading, but that was the point. They said that it was also unfair since they didn't do it in the fall. They also said that professors have been nice already. As a compromise with me, it seems, they extended the withdraw date until the last day of classes, May 7th.

1. Wheat: I was very angry. It felt like the bare minimum to me. They are going to try. Everything they were talking about giving an automatic U to those with Fs. Only two people were with us and the advisors said that they didn't do it.

2. Wiza: If you care about this, write to the committee members and share how you think this will help the student body.

ii. I am thinking about proposing some sort of wellness break after Oktoberfest and



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- stuff. Focus it on community involvement. I want to talk about it in the discussion.
- iii. We decided to award the higher education award to Tommy Thompson, the interim president of the UW System. He has been great for advocating for testing, vaccines, increasing the UW System budget, and for prairie springs part two.
 - iv. There has been a lot of conversation about the vaccination requirements and Joe Gow spoke about it. It is very unlikely that they will require it. He says that it is only emergency approved by the FDA, not rigorously approved. Only if it was actually approved, it could be required.
 - v. Betsy Morgan said that 90% of classes will be in person for this fall.
 - vi. They will be adding a new res life community for women in stem.
 - b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen
 - i. Fill out that survey I sent out about the end of the year get together.
 - c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
 - i. Met with Jenna Ives and she gave me thank you cards to send out.
 - d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
 - i. Cate said, please get vaccinated. It is a good idea. A few other people and I are going to Stout tomorrow to speak in front of the joint finance committee. You can write up a short statement. Email that to me, Will, or Brad. Or you can attend a virtual meeting.
 - e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
 - i. You should have gotten a survey about the bus. Fill that out!
 - ii. I touched on it last week, but I got more info about the parking ordinance. Right now, we have a parking minimum so when they build new buildings, they need a parking area. The city is looking at getting rid of that. It could be good for sustainability, discouraging people from driving, but Neighborhood association said that make it worse for biking due to more street parking. They are open for input if you have ideas.
 - f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
 - i. I've been working with LIT students; I haven't really done too much. Having conversations with other black and brown students about recent events. I am writing a letter to Dr. Roger Harrow about how in certain bio classes, there should be content warnings because there are some heavy topics for people of color in general historical contexts. I am advocating for a content warning and perhaps no pictures.
 - g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
 - h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers
 - i. Showing of Wall-E reserve a spot by emailing CAB.
 - ii. Create your own herb garden 12-3 tomorrow.
 - iii. Rec earth day clean up from 4-5 or 5-6.
 - iv. Downtown clean up on the 24th and you need to register for that as well.
 - v. Reusable bag grant- communication has been slow. I shared the image.
 - vi. Period pantry grant going on as well.
 - vii. E-waste grant going on.
 - viii. Drop off aluminum pop tabs in the union!



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- VII. Advisor Reports
- a. Burke: The Student Association elections are next Tuesday. Thanks to Faith for your leadership on the debate. There is a movie tomorrow and Friday. Please let people know that Friday has more spots open than Thursday. Check out MyOrgs event page to see what's going on. Finding campus events is a good destressing thing to do. I will be working with Tommy Thompson on some sort of presentation of the award that Cate mentioned.
 - b. Succulent planting thing next Wednesday 5pm at student union lawn.
- VIII. Committee & Organizational Reports
- a. Cayo: SUFAC is just about wrapped up for the year. We have some bylaws changes that we are working on. Also, usually the Pride Center has a drag show this time of year, but we are doing a drag performance and drag bingo Next Wednesday online.
 - b. Xiong: On April 26th, HOPE is having a ramen night to celebrate Hmong success. GO to OMSS to pick up some ramen that you can make and submit a picture of because there is a photo contest of your ramen. That will be from 6-8 pm.
- IX. Unfinished Business
- a. **SA2021-048**
 - i. Wiza: We made a change to the title of Faith's position, updated bylaws in the committee section about making sure the minutes are good, open meetings rules and all that. Bylaws will get changed, posted to website, along with the document of guidelines for open meetings and minutes, the executive cabinet bylaws will be changed as well. Those are the things that will be changed if this is passed.
 - ii. Passes unanimously
 - b. **SA2021-049**
 - i. Cayo: As we discussed last week, the green fund is close to reaching its cap, it would be great if we could pass at least one of these. Steam traps would be in Coate hall, help with clean energy, and be much quieter. That's about all. SUFAC approved of the whole thing.
 - ii. Passes with two abstentions
 - c. **SA2021-050**
 - i. Cayo: This green fund grant was approved for full amount by SUFAC as well. This one is to replace the current faucets in the union with automatic ones. They are sustainable and disability friendly, that is all I have to say about that.

Ericson: in SUFAC, someone mentioned wanting to expand the automatic faucets to buildings like the Rec, but I was in the rec today and they already have them, so we don't really need to look into that anymore.

Fitzgerald: I know Mitchell is older and they don't have any of that. Maybe next year I could work on that grant.

Ericson: that sounds like a good idea. I would love to work on that with you. Let's connect next year or over the summer.

Zwettler: My question was similar to Kat's. could we expand this to the dorms as well? Those older ones are very outdated as well.



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Ericson: Its possible. I'm not sure because they are slowly going around and renovating the dorms one by one. If facilities is already going for a dorm, we don't have to but I will connect with facilities and ask about that.

ii. Passes with two abstentions

X. New Business

a. **SA2021-51**

- i. Wiza: This is just appointing a new chief justice to the student court. Anya is the most experienced, she has been on student court since her freshman year and would like to continue.

Ericson: I haven't seen anything other than approving judges. What do they do?

Wiza: They would handle appeals from committees and the election commission. They approve executive orders. They are the extra branch of us, but there hasn't been a lot going on. No one has been impeached in a while. So they aren't really needed right now. The bylaws say that they form the election committee, but that doesn't really happen since they aren't active.

Burke: The bylaws say that the executive branch can also form the election commission, so you are good.

Wiza: I just want to make clear that I am just appointing the next chief justice. Not picking the next president's and vice president's court.

XI. Discussion

a. Fall Break

- i. Zwettler: I would like to yield to President Wiza.

Wiza: This is something Faith, Olivia, and I have been working on. We've been having conversations to see if we can incorporate this. Legally, we can start on September 1st, but we are starting on September 7th. I was thinking that we could start on the 1st, a Wednesday to make room for a break later. We met with faculty senate chair and he was initially optimistic about it but it seems his position has changed. It looks like Green Bay is going to start earlier. It seems like it is still possible, but faculty senate might be overwhelmed. AJ said that this would be a community program, having speakers come in that people want to see. Campus entities could hold programming. Gretchen Reinders is very in favor of this from counseling and testing. She said she could find some data to help. But the email I got from Brad today wasn't as optimistic so I'm not sure how to move forward.

Fisher: Something he also said was a "no work weekend" would probably at least be manageable. It is a crumb, but it is something.

Cayo: I was going to ask what other ideas on the table and are we for sure not having a fall break at all?



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Wiza: Yes, there is no fall break planned at all. Or else if we start earlier, we could end earlier. I'm worried that this semester was really hard without a break and I don't want that next year.

Wheat: is Thanksgiving break not technically a thing?

Wiza: Yeah, thanksgiving is still there. But it isn't really a break since we all have so much work to do and seeing family and such. This idea has been advocated before in the past, but it has been shut down. Science faculty mostly shut this down due to labs. I'm just looking for solutions moving forward. If this is the last thing this senate accomplishes, that would be great. We need to end the semester strong. The students need some recognition and help. Mental health doesn't go away once you go to in person stuff.

Ericson: Did brad say why he switched his view?

Fisher: I think that first he felt optimistic, and then found out that there would be some calendar-related setbacks. And maybe he was thinking it was less likely that faculty would be okay with it. Its not that he didn't want to, but that he found out more information.

Wheat: If CAPS isn't going for the S/U, I doubt they will approve this.

Wiza: I will reach out to the other presidents and see what other schools are doing this and talk to them. See how they did it. Having a fall break isn't unusual it is just hard with Wisconsin law and start dates.

Ericson: We had some success talking with faculty senate exec team about mental health earlier, but we could do that again. And see if that is helpful.

Wiza: That is a good idea.

Fitzgerald: I want to point out that when they got rid of spring break, it impacted athletes. You go on trips for training and stuff normally, so I know that was a big thing and maybe they could do that in the fall.

Fisher: I will meet with faculty senate on Thursday, if anyone wants to message me about stuff, let me know.

XII. Announcements

- a. Ericson: many earth week events! Just want to point out that the marsh clean up doesn't require signing up or anything.

XIII. Adjournment

- a. 7:17