



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: **September 23rd, 2020**

Time and Location: **6:00pm, WebEx**

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 6:03
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Agenda
 - b. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Guest Speakers
 - a. Cassandra Worner, Director of Student Wellness
 - i. Worner: We serve as alcohol, drug, sexual and mental health educators and resources. Our department is under the dean of students.

Minor: I used to be a peer health advocate, but now I am an intern and work alongside the peer health advocates. This first slide has our contact information so follow us on Instagram and Facebook to spread the word about these accounts! Also, reach out, our contact info is on the slide.

We want to practice healthy lifestyles that can be used for your whole life we do this by health and wellness promotion, programs in red halls, campus-wide events, drugs, and alcohol education, advocating for health in polices. An example is the responsible action policy for underage drinking, and they need help, students can contact authorities for health services without fear of getting a ticket.

We also have peer health advocates; I work alongside them now. Many of these students are in the public health field, we work together to educate about health, using the peer-to-peer communication. This means that students are much more likely to listen and learn. We are trained in specific content areas. Alcohol, drugs, mental and sexual health we have been doing for a while. Nutrient and physical health is something new we are working on. All went through NASPA certifications for peer educators.

List of events we put on- sexual health week in the beginning of March, which includes speakers, events; public health week and social justice week in March or April work with student orgs; Ultimate Race to end sexual assault and we partner with groups and violence prevention in April; La Crosse Collegiate Recovery Group, which helps with alcohol and drugs; Green Bandana Project, which is mental health awareness; our BeWell@UWL, campaign, using the wheel graphic for our 7 areas of wellness. Also, Stall Seat Journals as passive education. We also work to advocate for health in all policies. We offer BASICS/CASICS interventions; BASICS is alcohol and CASICS is for cannabis it is usually a one on one conversation and education for a student.

Worner: We partner with students on individual, groups or community wide basis to spread our message. We also partner with groups so we come into sports and clubs to talk about this stuff. This includes partnering with It Makes Cents, Pride



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center, other places to work together to improve students' well-being. We are charged with IDing problems. Obviously COVID-19 is a major issue. We are having a major spike of number of cases. It has been off the charts since school opened back up. We know that it is because of the students. We are labeled as critical with the number of cases per population adjustment we have. The demographics of where the cases are is most likely to be in the city proper, not necessarily the rural areas. These maps are from the La Crosse County website. New 7 day rolling average is 134 people per day. We were identified in the New York Times as a hotspot. The hotspot is defined as when surrounding counties are doing generally better. We are seeing that there are many locations in Wisconsin also seeing a spike in cases. These areas often coordinate with the locations of UW schools are seeing the same thing. Unfortunately, we are getting national attention for this.

Over half of new cases are from the people of 20-29 age range we see that mostly because all these students came into an area with already high case rates. More difficult for college students to recognize that you have this disease because most people are asymptomatic or just have minor symptoms, and that makes it spread because no one stays unwell enough to stay home. Asymptomatic is 7%, mild cases are 66%, so they think it could just be cold or allergies. This makes it harder to ID who infected whom because then we are looking at with community spread cases when people go out with mild or no symptoms as opposed to close contact traces. We can't trace it as easily.

Our recommendations are to wear a mask, state mask mandate got extended until November, and they are required on campus property (even if outside). Stay 6 feet apart, do all of these things, wash hands, don't touch your face, don't travel, not recommending any indoor gatherings. And even with mild symptoms, you need to stay home.

Minor: We are seeing spread on and off campus. It can be hard with living with many people to stop the spread, especially if your roommates aren't taking the same precautions that you would be. Made sure you are washing your hands, distance yourself from roommates if they aren't taking necessary precautions, make sure you talk to them to see when you, throw away tissues, cover coughs and sneezes, closely monitor yourself for symptoms, in our age groups, we have high immunity so you can't tell the difference between that and maybe a normal headache, advocate for yourself if you do have this when talking to your professors and employers. We recommend getting tested even for just a mild symptom. Just be aware of yourself and changes. Take care of yourself to protect others. Clean and disinfect your frequently touched surfaces daily, wear a mask when you are around people you don't live with.

Worner: We are talking a lot about individual responsibility. We only have control over ourselves. There are going to be things that are out of your control and that is okay. Every action is very impactful, but it is possible to do everything right and still get it because it isn't all up to you. So, you just need to do your best.



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Minor: We see a lot of hook ups and one-night stands in college, especially when alcohol is involved. So, we know this is still going to happen, how can we have people be safe. It is important to note that you must have consent, just to sex as normal, but also you need to be having the discussion about COVID. Knowing how COVID-19 spreads is important too. We know that it is transmitted through saliva so many of our suggestions involve reducing that contact.

You can find pleasure with yourself and that is the safest option. Next best option is a person you live with or would already be unmasked around. Make sure you use condoms, dental dams to keep down the spread of saliva. Don't have sex if you don't feel well. Avoid kissing, wear a mask, monitor for symptoms, wash before and after. If 18+, consider consenting video calls, sexting, etc. always use protection to prevent STIs and COVID-19.

Worner: There are many students who choose not to have sex, but we know that this is a need on our campus even with our current situation. That's why we are putting this information. We don't want to tell you not to do it, because that won't work. We want to take risk reduction viewpoint and offer materials so it can happen as safely as possible.

Minor: We are focusing on how we can still address other health needs during this pandemic. On our social media, we put out a survey about if students needed sexual health supplies. We found that off campus students said they needed supplies more than on campus students. Normally we provide them at our events, RAs can provide them, but we wanted to create an option for this current situation. So we created a 2 min survey with your name, where you live, what you need at tinyurl.com/uwlsafersex so that we can get supplies to our off campus students in a safe way- through the mail. For our on-campus students, we also put condom dispensers in residence halls. We just found out that they are still in halls, so we are working on keeping them stocked. One thing you could do is to advocate for condom dispensers in other campus buildings, Whitney, locker rooms at the REC, union, etc. want to move this one step further. We want to provide students with safer options. Human beings are sexual and we want to give them a safe option to get that satisfaction. If you could share this, that would be awesome.

Worner: Lily has shown a lot of education through social media. We want to translate the long emails into social media posts, because we know that students are getting so many long emails everyday and it is hard to keep everything straight. We also want to share that information with parents on the Facebook pages that we run. We offer ongoing support for students in quarantine and isolation because we know that is important for mental health. We are also working with the La Crosse County health department for the COVID-related issues. While this weekend's Oktoberfest is cancelled, we have seen concerns at bars and restaurants that things will maybe still happen. Again, we just want to offer safe alternatives. We need people to help hand out masks this weekend: Friday, 9/25 8-10pm, Saturday 9/26, 2-4pm so that we can try to reduce the



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spread as much as possible.

In addition to those new programs and events, we are continuing our normal services.

Minor: We want to share this information with you: the County Health Department is hosting COVID testing in Mitchell hall tomorrow and Friday. You are encouraged to bring insurance cards, if you don't have it, that's okay but if they can bill insurance, they will. There is no appointment needed, you can just show up with 1 or more symptoms, or close contact. These could be mild symptoms like congestion, runny nose, headache, small fever. Pass this along as well. It is on our social media. It was a quick turnaround time, but we want to get as many students there as we can.

Worner: Here is our slide with contact information again. Please don't hesitate to contact us because we are here to help.

Wiza: What kind of test will it be on Thursday and Friday?

Minor: It will be the PCR test, more invasive but the gold standard in reliability. Only drawback is that it does take 2-5 days for results.

Worner: It is an uncomfortable test, but not painful.

Fisher: What is the testing site going to look like? Obviously, people are going to wear masks, but I know there were concerns with safety.

Worner: It won't be any less safe than just going to the grocery store because with the number of cases in our area, if you go to the store, odds are, you will come in contact with someone who has it. We made sure that there are more measures being taken than the grocery store: it is a large space for social distancing, and lots of disinfecting.

Cayo: Could we get a copy of the slideshow for our own use/for constituents?

Worner: Yes, we will send this out! It is also on the website and our social media. It is especially important to look there since the situation changes every day and we post daily updates. Also look at the UW system dashboard and La Crosse county website for specific numbers.

Fisher: On your power point it says there has to be an insurance card for the Mitchell Hall testing, can you bring a photo of it?

Minor: As long as you know the number, it should be okay. If you can't get that info or you don't have one, it will still be free.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

- a. None present



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VI. Officer Reports

- a. **President:** Cate Wiza
 - i. Election commission is looking for 2 non-returning senators so please email us if you are interested in serving there. That election is on October 7th. We will be sending out the voting information later, but we want you all to be aware and share that information.
 - ii. After tonight's presentation especially, please don't gather, just hang out with your roommates. We want you all to be better because we represent this community and serve as role models for other students.
- b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen
 - i. Next week we have Chancellor Gow coming in as our guest speaker so think about questions and concerns in advance. Email me if you aren't sure if your concern is something you can say.
 - ii. I was going to mention the free testing, but our guest speakers already mentioned that! so hopefully we will see you there, because President Wiza and I will be there.
 - iii. Make good decisions!
- c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
 - i. I am going to be sending out emails to the college deans, my plan is to have everyone meet with their deans in the month of October.
 - ii. Stay safe!
- d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
 - i. Specifically, to anyone in senate planning to be on the legislative affairs committee, check your email to respond to my form.
 - ii. Register to vote!
 - iii. Don't get people sick!
- e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
 - i. If you go to myvote.wi.gov, it is super easy to register to vote, see what's on your ballot, and you can request your absentee ballot, do that as soon as you can!
 - ii. Register to be a poll worker if you are around on 11/3! Look up La Crosse municipal clerk online and email her. They need your help!
- f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
 - i. I met with Amanda Lowe, the new counselor in counseling and testing service, they will have a students of color group starting up soon. This is their first support group for students of color specifically.
 - ii. For diversity seats, I want to set up a meeting with the vice chancellor. So, respond to my email please so I don't have to send all you all multiple emails, trying to get a response.
- g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
 - i. None
- h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers
 - i. We met for Green fund committee, if you aren't a part of that, we can take your ideas. I talked with dining hall people and they say that 10,000 single use containers are used every day. That is an absurd amount of waste, so we are working on a second OZZI grant for Whitney center.
 - ii. People are welcome to sit in on committee meetings every once in a while if you



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are interested.

VII. Advisor Reports

- a. I probably will be reiterating some information. The health department will be doing 2,000 tests on each day, tomorrow and Thursday at Mitchell. It is a great opportunity that I would highly recommend taking part in.
- b. Tomorrow at 10:30 there is the chancellor open forum. Please encourage people to join. Many important people will be there, I will be there to talk about dining, so please come with your concerns.
- c. For poll workers, I have heard that college students get paid for that so that is more motivation to look into what was mentioned earlier.
- d. I voted on Sunday! It was super easy, request your absentee ballots and get it done!
- e. We will open the union on Sunday at 7:00am and expanding some of the dining options at that time.

Byrne: If campus was shut down again, and the union closes again, is there anyway the UW credit union could stay open?

Ringgenberg: They will be having staff, opening for the public on the 14th. Same time that the Madison branch will be opening up. If we are all sent home or something, it is going to depend on what the numbers look like if they will keep the lobby open or not. I would be happy to express to them that students need their banking and advocate for more hours

Engebretson: I'm a student who lives off-campus, but I like going to the library to study and such. I was just wondering if the library would stay open just the library or the union in a situation like what Sophie was talking about.

Ringgenberg: next week they will be open, however, they will close at 5:00. The union will have normal hours and study spaces on 2nd and 3rd floor. Centennial will also be open for normal business hours. And some other academic building.

Myers: will the bookstore also open with the union?

Ringgenberg: Yes, normal hours beginning on Monday, as will textbook rental. They will operate differently though. They will get it for you after you check in at the desk. They won't let you into the stacks.

Teske: How does the school enforce or keep track of punishments for off campus parties or gatherings?

Ringgenberg: What a good question. We are working on it. We have a good partnership with city and campus police. There are going to be party patrols this weekend, hopefully shut down some dangerous stuff. We haven't made and discipline actions yet, but we have been talking about it. The off-campus people are the struggle when compared to the residence halls- those are fairly clean because of the documentation.



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VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Cayo: SUFAC will be having their first meeting on Monday. Training and voting will take place
- b. Evans: UWL policy group on race met last week. We discussed racist hiring and admission policies. We are looking at UWL policies and trying to figure out where to start making changes. If you have any ideas, let me know.

IX. Organizational Reports

- a. None

X. Unfinished Business

- a. N/A

XI. New Business

- a. **Appointment of Yer Xiong as HOPE seat, Alex Jeske as ALANA senator, Ian for BSU, Meagan Rain as NASA senator, Madaline L'Ecyer as Greek Life senator** (added at beginning)
- b. **SA2021-014**
 - i. Wiza: Like we did in August, we created an executive order to suggest that groups greater than 20 hold virtual meetings, we are extending the deadline of that recommendation through October 19 given the current situation with COVID cases and the shelter in place order. After that time, they will only be able to meet in the Union with less than 10 people. If they don't follow directions, discipline could be taken at the student court level
 - ii. Zwettler; what was the reason for October 19th?
 - iii. Riggerberg: the 19th is two weeks from when we believe everyone will be back in town.
 - iv. Mendoza: That was my question as well
 - v. Jansen: That was my question as well
 - vi. Cayo: does this resolution need to have the two week rule suspended?
 - vii. Ahnen: no
- c. **Election of President pro tempore**
 - i. Wiza: Olivia is president of senate. If she can't make it to senate, then the president pro tempore would do her job. Wiza: if you want to nominate someone for this position, put your name in the chat.
 - ii. Ericson: does it have to be a senator or can it be a cabinet member.
 - iii. Ahnen: it has to be a senator
 - iv. Cayo: I would be comfortable filling this position if you need to. I guess I nominate myself.
 - v. Byrne: I also was going to nominate senator Cayo.
 - vi. Ericson: I nominate Cayo as well.
 - vii. Zwettler: I nominate Cayo as well.
 - viii. Ahnen: all I favor of having Cayo as our pro tempore, say aye
 - ix. Voice vote passes

XII. Discussion

- a. **Student workload and mental health** (added by Ericson)
 - i. Ericson: I added this because I have heard from a lot of students that there is a major workload. As a chem major, that is to be expected but I think that it is a lot, especially to be locked inside on top of that. A lot of people are pulling long



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hours and if there are any solutions that we can do as senators to help with that.

Navoichick: Everyone feels that way. I don't know if there is anything we can do about that but I agree,

Byrne: I was going to second what Ericson said. I have had experiences with certain professors who have strict deadlines. They state that Wi-Fi or Canvas crashing isn't an excuse to extend the deadline. In my opinion, if there is any valid excuse, it is when university services not working.

L'Eceyer: I was agreeing with what Ericson said. They are worried about isolation and quarantine effecting mental health.

Zwettler: My concern is more directed at the appropriate workload for the courses we signed up for. If it was an intro class that is supposed to meet for x amount of time, professors are going over it or assigning much more work than before, thinking that it is okay because we are at home and have more time.

Xiong: This happens to everyone and we are student leaders. We can't disregard our own learning. We need to use services to cope with this. Talking to counseling and testing, SSS and other services online to help developing time management skills.

Ericson: I'm glad I'm not the only one. A thought that I just had is to make a resolution of student expectations for professors. Leniency with Wi-Fi, time expectations etc. send it to faculty senate. I don't know if they would take offense to that.

Cayo: I would like to echo what everyone is saying. We could reach out to the deans and say that this is something I have been hearing about. We may be able to survey the students and see what they think. If we put stats in the resolution. I would hope that people would listen to what we say. Would our resolution go anywhere? Faculty, deans, administration.

Ringgenberg: Cate and Oliva- I think the first step is for you both to meet with Betsy. My guess is that she wouldn't be happy hearing what I am right now.

Wiza: we could talk with her for our monthly meeting soon so we will bring it up. Faith goes to faculty senate every week so you can let her know.

Fisher: I have a faculty senate meeting tomorrow and I probably not be able to make it. If I can't make it, I will be sending them a report and things that you want me to say and I can include these concerns as well.

Cayo: is it possible to have a senator sit in on that meeting with Morgan once you schedule it?



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Ahnen: Yes, I will let you know once we get it set up.

XIII. Announcements

- a. Ahnen: free testing tomorrow and Friday at Mitchell Hall! make sure you show up. Might as well, right? It is a free test. Make you sure you are healthy and take advantage of this event.
- b. Xiong: don't forget to vote!
- c. Ahnen: make a plan to vote! Researching time and place will save you a headache in the long run.

XIV. Adjournment