



# 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: **October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

- I. Call to Order
  - a. 6:01
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of Agenda
  - b. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Guest Speakers
  - a. Dan Kapanke
    - i. Kapanke: Thanks for what you do! Just a little about me- I am an alum from UW-La Crosse. I have two degrees in political science and economics and a teaching certificate all from this university. I have been a lifelong resident of La Crosse except for my service in the military. That’s a little about me but I am happy to take any questions you have.

Zwettler: Thanks for taking time to come here today! At a previous meeting, we had Brad Pfaff, and someone asked him about the student debt crisis. So what would you do to help alleviate the student debt, if re-elected?

Kapanke: Eight years ago, there was a tuition freeze put in place by governor Walker. I would approve of doing that again. We have a new “sheriff” in town with Tommy Thompson running the UW system now and I think that with him in control, we will see good changes. I went to college and had a family of 3, worked 2 jobs with a family and I came out with some debt, but I worked it off over 10 years. There are no easy answers, but I would just encourage all students to take courses that will allow you to get a good job and take out minimal amount of loans.

Mathu: I was just wondering about public sector employees, specifically teachers, and if you had a plan to improve educators’ lives.

Kapanke: K-12 education has always been at the top of the list and it will continue to be there. I know that we need to reward the really good educators with money. About 8 or 10 years ago, whenever act 10 went through, that caused angst but that all has passed. I have talked to teachers and their main concern is that they want to get students back in the classroom and are worried about COVID. They do a great job, and we need to make sure that our budget supports them.

Cayo: what is your plan, should you get this spot in office, about COVID-19?



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Kapanke: My plan is to protect the vulnerable and for the rest of us, we need to get on to normalcy. Go to work and have confidence that we will be safe when we go out. I hope that the vaccine potentially coming out will be a good thing. Protect vulnerable and the rest of us, get on with our lives.

Flynn: I am involved in sustainability so I am wondering how you would fight for that if you are elected. What are your plans for long term sustainability solutions?

Kapanke: We are on a path where we are incorporating wind, air, and solar in our power grid. Power companies have spent money doing this. But they have also spent millions on their coal plants to make it a cleaner energy source. We should continue that course to incorporate green energy and put more emphasis on natural gas and make existing coal plants as efficient as possible.

Engbretson: I had the same question as Kelly about sustainability so instead I will focus on a certain aspect of sustainability. What are you going to do in regard to agriculture, energy and water conservation?

Kapanke: We have rules and regulations in place for nutrient management- which is manure. The agriculture business is one of the most regulated business we have but we must watch that they follow the regulations that are in place. There are people making them accountable, but it is one of our biggest businesses and we need to let it grow.

Schauberger: With your COVID-19 plan, you mentioned returning to normalcy, like you said normal, but how is it normal when thousands of people are dying, and they aren't just those at risk. Healthy individuals our age are dying. There are healthy people suffering and needing to be put on ventilators. It doesn't help the spread that a lot of people are asymptomatic. So you mentioned that you want to protect the vulnerable while allowing us to go back but never mentioned how that would work. What is your actual plan to protect vulnerable people?

Kapanke: The vulnerable are the people who have medical issues and they just need to be smart and use common sense and protect themselves more than the more healthy people. The lockdown has caused an increase in suicides in domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse along with the mental strain of no normalcy with parents and the young kids. We have to balance that, shutting down the country because of some one's dying. We just have to take care of them. How is the state going to have the revenue to do these programs if we shut it down? Since COVID hit, La Crosse county has contributed \$50 million less to the state. Think about how much each county has lost to the closing down. Doing that again will leave all levels of government without money. We have to balance opening the economy while taking care of everyone. If masks work like they say they do, why aren't all kids in school? Onalaska opened this week and just announced closing on Friday. I don't know, can you help tell me the answer?



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Schauberger: The federal government has no problem adding to its debt to solve issues, seeing as Trump has added trillions why not add to it. That seems like a good answer.

Kapanke: The CARES act was done because people were unemployed, and businesses weren't doing well. I ran into a young couple on the campaign trail. The woman had to balance working from home and teaching autistic son since schools closed. As a result of teaching the son, she lost her job. These are the horror stories that are arising. We need to re-open to get the money to support people like her in the COVID-19 pandemic.

L'Ecuyer: I have talked with educators who say that their biggest concern is getting in the classroom, but a lot of teachers are concerned. They don't want to get it and spread it. People are afraid. What would you say to these concerns?

Kapanke: Wear a mask. If they work like you say they do, that should be enough to re-open. I talked to an educator 20 minutes ago in Prairie du Chien. Forcing kids to stay home during this time is the biggest child abuse since they were forced to work in factories. They haven't been in school or with their friends since March. The mental strain is huge on the kids and parents. The numbers show that in La Crosse county 3.5% of us have gotten the COVID. We need to focus on the 96.5% that are safe and need to keep going. Closing everything down for that 3.5% is not the answer.

Ericson: In a recent debate you came across as being very against the 25% limit on capacity. There are bars in La Crosse that have not been enforcing social distancing and masks and are getting packed on weekends. How will you address these issues with bars and how do you justify your stance on this issue? And another question, I'm sure that you are aware that masks and social distance are the best way to address COVID 19, and you yourself have said that you wear a mask, but are you in favor of a statewide/nationwide mask mandate?

Kapanke: No, I am not in favor of that. If people are comfortable wearing one, they should wear one. We have to trust everyone to make common sense mandate. It isn't change anything. We can jam into Menard's and Kwik Trip and that's okay, but we can't go to a restaurant? They are going to be gone by the end of this. No one can live with 25 capacity of income. We see that restaurants are unfairly taking the fall. If you aren't safe going there, then don't go. You can order out. Who is choosing winner and losers? Who is to say that Menard's and Kwik Trip are good, but our local businesses aren't? We have families and businesses here that is everything. It isn't their fault. With 25% and they won't be able to stay open and pay the bills.

Schweiner: Would you be in favor of a non-partisan commission for redistricting?



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Kapanke: Right now, that it is in our legislature that the maps are from the legislature and approved by the governor. I don't care who draws the line, I challenge the democrats do it themselves and I will approve it when it reaches me. I don't believe non-partisan exists. I want to see them put it on my desk, but I haven't seen them in the last years and I haven't seen them yet this season either.

Schweiner: You mentioned bars and restaurants. Would you be in favor of providing additional small business loans?

Kapanke: They already received some funding. It isn't sustainable and I'm not sure we can keep doing that long term. It will have to come from someone's taxes. Why spend my taxes if we can just allow them to open to whatever they feel is safe? The restaurants don't want someone coming in there and getting COVID. It isn't good for business and they don't want that. They have safety features in place. They are practicing the social distancing and masks. They are doing it right. They are doing it right, and we need to trust them to protect their consumers

V. General Student Body Open Forum

VI. Officer Reports

a. **President:** Cate Wiza

- i. We are starting a voting buddy service. We don't want anyone to feel intimidated when voting. The service is open from the start to the end of the poll hours. This person will walk you there and back, make sure that you aren't feeling unsafe or scared. We don't want anyone to be deterred from voting because of intimidation. If interested in volunteering, send me an email. You could do it just for an hour- it doesn't have to be very long. I highly encourage it.

Schauberger: Cate could you remind people about the 100ft from the entrance rule for political stuff?

Wiza: Yes, do there is no chalking, no passing out stuff, no signs, or any other political action within 100 feet of the entrance to the polling place.

- ii. Our election protest group came up with an event from 11/3-11/11 called the unity room. Stress free zone to getting away from election. We will have social distancing crafts, snacks puzzles, a safe place. Not talking about politics or harassing people about their views. Just allowing people to come together and take a breath and a break from the craziness that this election will cause. The hours are 11am-6 on the first day and 11-4:30 for the rest of the days. Take a break. Go there!
- iii. Masks are required everywhere on campus- inside and out and voting. This is what we are endorsing. Masks on campus all the time! Set a good example and make sure your constituents know this as well.
- iv. Let me know if you need help writing resolutions or doing anything.



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- b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen
    - i. Show up to your committees! I know it is hectic right now, but there is no excuse for not showing up. If you are unsure about what you are on or meeting times, shoot me an email. These committees need certain number of people to even meet so if you don't show up, they can't officially meet. If you don't know, just ask. It is critical that you show up.
    - ii. Start thinking about things that you want to do on campus. Things that interest you and that you are passionate about. Start bringing that here. Not even as an official resolution but you can start it as a discussion point and then get ideas for resolutions. We have been talking a lot about COVID but feel free to bring up other ideas too. It definitely still is about COVID as a main priority but just think about things you want to see changed in any area and let me know. We can start to make some changes and do the jobs we were given to do.
  - c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
    - i. Given whatever result of the election, I want to let you know that I am a safe space to process whatever you need to process. If you need to hear from someone else, I am a neutral voice that would be happy to help.
  - d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
    - i. U.S. supreme court restructured the late ballot thing so that has changed a few things. You have up until Friday to vote early at City Hall, and you can vote obviously on election day at Mitchell as well.
  - e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
    - i. If you voted absentee at your home address, but didn't get it in on time or whatever, you can disregard that ballot and go in person here. As long as you don't cast your vote twice, you are good.
    - ii. I am planning a meal drive. If you know places that are looking for food, shoot me an email and let me know where we should give our food that we receive.
  - f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
    - i. Social media take over for DNI on Friday so keep an eye out!
  - g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
    - i. None
  - h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers
    - i. Green funds are due next Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. We be expecting the new OZZI and stadium lights by that date.
    - ii. Green fund committee just decided to do biweekly meetings.
    - iii. One of our senators, Rachel Engebretson created a nice PowerPoint about composting to send out to students. I know that the Kane street gardens will be open this weekend for dumping your compost.
- VII. Advisor Reports- Vitaliano Figueroa
- a. Larry really deserved this day off. He has been working tirelessly, for those of you who don't know, I am vice chancellor of student affairs. I just have a brief report:
  - b. Continuing to test for COVID through our screening space in Cartwright and using the annex space for those who are symptomatic. We are trying to expand that service to off campus students. Working to get advice from the system. But that should be coming out in the next couple of weeks.



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- c. In terms of rec sports, they are starting their Play Safer series. Engage in physical activity with physical distancing. It has been expanded for indoor stuff since the weather is getting colder and we can't do as much outside.
  - d. Student life office is participating in the Halloween food drive that will benefit the UWL food pantry.
  - e. Conway: I was curious if students were required to wear masks at Mitchell while voting because I heard that they can't be turned away if they aren't.
  - f. We will have masks available that are free, but I would say that would be a better question for Dr. Larry since he has been working with the individual on that initiative.
- VIII. Committee Reports
- a. Cayo: SUFAC met this week and we are looking at carryover requests from last year. Start budgeting meetings this week.
  - b. Zwettler: Free Speech committee hosted two events last week and after those events, we received an email about a possible liberal bias to those events and they just asked for more conservative voices in the future. Looking at hosting a virtual forum with the COVID task force and a survey to send out so that we can hear from students.
  - c. Ericson: JCES met, we talked about goals, we will be working on UW Divestment, getting sustainability into the next strategic plan and also working on advertising Green Fund in general.
- IX. Organizational Reports
- a. Cayo: Pride center is hosting another allyship training at the 6<sup>th</sup>. Link on website.
  - b. Jeske: The march to the polls went really well, so there will be another one this Friday.
  - c. Olivia: if you email me, I will get that posted on our social media!
- X. Unfinished Business
- XI. New Business
- a. **SA2021-021**
    - i. Approving Lindsey Strzyzewski as a school of education senator
    - ii. 2-week rule suspended unanimously
    - iii. Passed unanimously
    - iv. Swearing in
  - b. **SA2021-022**
    - i. Wiza: on Tuesday, the student association of Madison did something similar to what we are proposing- recommend all classes to be asynchronous on election day. More time to go vote because we are encouraging everyone to vote and that this will make it easier. Please voice your opinions! I want to hear what you have to say.

Jeske: I like this idea. That is all

Ericson: Labs are usually on Tuesday. May be difficult for them to go online but I do think that this should be a national holiday.

Wiza: Yeah, I know, we just want everyone to vote.

Zwettler: Ericson stole my comment. Very much in support. It is the best we can do at this point.





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Byrne: I think it is a fantastic idea.

Cayo: We did just get an email from the chair of faculty senate and I can read it to you. Faculty senate won't be meeting until after the election. And Provost Morgan says that it wouldn't be her problem. It sounds like we need to revamp our "therefore be it resolved" since addressing it to faculty senate isn't going to work.

Wiza: Can KC and I make a motion to amend the document?

Zwettler: Second

Cayo: Just send it to cooperative between the deans, provost and faculty governance.

Wiza: "...humbly recommends that UWL Student Association, the College Deans, Faculty Governance, and the Provost send out a cooperative advisory statement that requests asynchronous instructional activities to be utilized where possible on Election Day, November 3rd, 2020."

Cayo: Just in case you all are concerned about this change, this is what the faculty senate explicitly asked us to do in that email we just got.

Ahnen: This is open for discussion on this specific part of the resolution.

Wiza: do we like this?

Ahnen: if so, I will take a call to question.

- ii. Vote to amend passes with one abstention
- iii. Vote to suspend the two-week rule passes unanimously
- iv. Resolution passes unanimously

## XII. Discussion

### a. WOC Scholarship Adhoc Committee

- i. Wiza: Just asking if any senators will be interested in doing this. I will hand it over to director Evans since this is her project. This isn't saying that this is going to happen right now, we just need to know if this is something that people would be willing to work on.
- ii. Evans: There is a lot of work that goes into it. Director Fisher is working on it too, but it would be great to have some other people working on it with us. So far it is a lot of sending emails and waiting for them to respond. Just learning the process and learning how it has changed since COVID.



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iii. Fisher: Last year, I worked on it and what we did was that one person, Sita, just did it all. I think it is important because Sita did it individually last year and each year we have reached out to certain orgs and big businesses asking if they are willing to donate. Two years ago, they had a big fundraiser. The thing we want to work on is getting that big donations and reaching out to those big organizations. It is better if we divide and conquer. That would give Camoya time to work on other things. Even if you are willing to send just a few emails, just let me know. I don't mind taking over the online fundraiser thing, but I know that it can be broken down into less work for each person if needed. If interested, email or text one of us or speak up right now in this discussion.

Cayo: I would love to help send emails or anything else that I can do to help.

Strzyzewski: I would like to help. I work for the foundation too. So I ask people for money all the time and would love to help.

Jeske: I can also help!

## XIII. Announcements

a. Ahnen: Get thinking about what it is that you want to see happen on campus and bring it here to get it done! Start it as a discussion point and send me an email with your ideas.

## XIV. Adjournment