



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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

Student Senate Agenda

Date: November 11th, 2020

Time and Location: 6:00pm; WebEx

I. Call to Order

a. 6:02

II. Roll Call

III. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of Agenda

b. Approval of Minutes

IV. Guest Speakers

a. Vice Chancellor Bob Hetzel

i. Hetzel: I wish we could do this meeting in person. Since COVID has started though, student senate has done a great job continuing to provide the leadership that we need. This is the second pandemic UWL has experienced. The first one was over 100 years ago, and I'm sure you all have heard all about that. Graff and Wittich went through that Spanish flu pandemic in 1918. Just like they survived, we will get through it too. Just like we have these old buildings of the past, we have Prairie Springs and the field house to keep us looking to the future. My agenda is to provide you with an enrollment update, summary of tuition and seg fees, the pandemic, facility planning, and hopefully we will have time for some questions.

The good news is that despite the pandemic, we have a strong enrollment of about 10,400 students, and last year was 10,600. These numbers are telling us that you as students have decided to stay with UWL despite the changes that have been made to accommodate for COVID. We have 2,114 first year students. Barbara Stewart has worked hard to make sure that we have a good representation of students of color on our campus. Right now, we have over 1,000 students of color on our campus. It may not sound like a lot, but that is a great improvement over what we have seen in the past. More important than the enrollment numbers are the numbers that show that our students stay here and graduate. We saw 2,056 degrees awarded last year, and that included the weirdness with COVID. When looking at all the enrollment numbers of this year compared to last year, we saw the number of undergrad students decrease by 1.2%. Unfortunately, our international student numbers are 66 this year compared to 116 last year. I hope that once things settle down with COVID, we will be able to get more of those international students back here. Transfer students for this year was 337 to 394 last year. Last year, our retention rate was 85.6% and this year was 84%. No one except Madison does better. This tells us that our students like it here and want to stay here to complete their degrees.

We know that our students are facing financial challenges and COVID challenges us all, across the institution. We received \$9 million in funding from the federal government to help us bridge the gap in funding issues. Some of those issues come from the 10-year tuition freeze. This is good



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for you guys, because tuition hasn't increased in over 8 years now, but I am worried about the 10th year. It is hard because if I can't increase tuition, I can't give any pay increases or promote any of our faculty and this means that some positions must be eliminated, and it's not a good thing for quality of the education, but it sure is good for your pockets. We know that Wisconsin demographics show us that we are an aging state. We need to work to sustain enrollment and faculty/staff recruitment and retention. I have been starting to do budget planning for fiscal year 2022 and it looks like we are going to be short about \$1.6 million in our tuition pool. This equates to about 15 positions. Additionally, our seg fees down \$302,944. We started talking with people in student affairs about the budget and just started those discussions on that front as well. We see our academic initiative funds down by \$23,916. We will see our seg fee increase kept at 1.5%. System President Thompson has been clear to keep those modest. Over the last years between FY12 to FY21, tuition has gone up just a smidgen, thanks to that tuition freeze, seg fees have gone up quite a bit but that is because of our new buildings. Room is going up slightly just because of renovations in some of our halls like Laux and White. The board increase is very little, since Dr. Larry does such a good job getting contracts with Chartwells and such. We have a super low parking rate. I believe that we offer high quality services at lowest price possible. Looking to the future, seg fees probably won't go up too much since we have already gone through some major investments, so I don't see any large spikes coming up soon. Our cost of textbook rentals is about the same as other colleges who have a similar program. On the pandemic- UWL has received just under \$10 million from the federal government. We have allocated \$3.4 million of that to students in the form of financial aid grants. It is great for students in the face of this pandemic because we know they are hurting and struggling, so we gave it to them. The COVID testing and contact tracing takes some of that money as well. And those operations are going very well. Some of that money is being used for your protection and safety. We purchased a lot of PPE: from plexiglass to face masks and hand sanitizer all around campus.

Now I get to talk about fun things. We are making progress with how the campus looks. Like with the Wittich College of Business renovation. If you haven't been there yet, you will love it when you do go in there. It is great for students and faculty. The entire lower level is full of spaces for student leaders. The original building was built at the start of the 1918 pandemic. So, if Wittich can get through something like this, we can too. We also completed the Badger street mall, which was a nice addition over the summer I love those international flags addition down by Whitney Center. We also have worked on the Veterans' Memorial Field track and turf replacement. We said that it is time to embrace our school colors in the track and we see that in this image from the drone. Currently, our field house is under construction over there as well. For our tennis courts, we partnered with the city of La Crosse and Aquinas high school to put thirteen tennis courts out on Green Island. We worked with those groups to pledge \$250,000 from each of us and the adult city tennis as well. That money funded this facility. Phase two will hopefully be an indoor



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tennis bubble. We also have a phase two plan for Prairie Springs, which will require us to take down Cowley. We are hopeful that Governor Evers will be supportive of this plan next year in the budget. Cowley is tired and need to be replaced. We want to finish what we started with Prairie Springs and get the new classroom spaces that this addition will bring. The fieldhouse is under construction, and if you look at this sketch, it looks a lot like Graff hall because we want to maintain the character of campus. It will be great for intramurals, exercise science, athletics and anyone who just wants to walk around. We started construction in August, and it should be done in the spring of '22. The construction team that did such a great job on Wittich are doing this work as well. It is funded 50% by students and 50% by the university. We also are looking at constructing a new parking ramp by the Center for the Arts to make up for the parking spaces lost by the fieldhouse construction and the zoning by the city of all the surrounding streets. I have time to take some questions if anyone has any!

Myers: How is sustainability being included in the planning of these buildings? We found that it is hard to implement green fund projects after facilities have been built. Considering the looming environmental crisis, what is being done to make these changes while in the planning phase?

Hetzel: I am proud of what we have done over the last decade. We have 3 LEED certified buildings on campus. In order to do this, we work with the state. The state requires LEED silver, but we went over that standard with Eagle, the Union and Centennial being LEED gold. We use architects who are current in the technology to know what is efficient and mindful of materials. When we looked at Wittich, we recycled a lot of materials. The track on the second floor stayed there in the form of materials throughout the building. It gets the message out that sustainability is important. We want the science buildings to model that as well in Prairie Springs. We want to be aware and take sustainable actions in all phases. We want to partner with green fund with the potential for solar panels on the new parking ramp so feel free to reach out to me about that if you want to help take part in all that.

Myers: Are there opportunities for students to have a say in the plans of these sorts of things?

Hetzel: Yes! We will reach out to you with the parking ramp in the spring once we really get going on that and we will reach out to students for the new Prairie Springs because we are wondering what we want the space to feel like since there will be a lot common areas.

Fitzgerald: Do you have estimates about the pool renovations and when it will be started?



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Hetzel: About two weeks ago, Chancellor Vitaliano and I had a great conversation about our plans to allow the athletes to return to normalcy if they get tested once a week. Once COVID is over, we are going to open the pool. Now, five divers and a coach are allowed to practice starting this week. The reason for that is that Mitchell Hall was built in 1965 and that was a long time ago. The HVAC systems are old and tired, so we don't get air movement. With COVID, if the air doesn't move it just sits and that's why the swim team isn't allowed to practice. We don't want to risk infection. I am hoping it will be open sometime in the spring. The regents approved \$23 million for improving and replacing the entire system in Mitchell but that is still several years out.

Jeske: I know there was talk about security cameras on campus and I was just wondering where things were at on that?

Hetzel: We have a preliminary plan, but we are behind because of COVID. We want to get them into the entrances of every building and inside at select places. Right now, we do have some in the Union at the front desk and we have some cameras in the credit union. I hope this summer we can work on that further.

Jeske: Is there anything students can do to get involved in that process?

Hetzel: I think what we will want to do is to do whatever we are doing with sustainability and continue to get the senate involved along the way.

Zwettler: You had mentioned in an early meeting that state has been decreasing funding and also maintain the tuition freeze. Do you want to keep more funding or another tuition freeze? Which option would you prefer?

Hetzel: We have needs across the institution. We need to make meaningful investments and I want to advocate for our legislature to get the GPR support we need to make those happen. "GPR" is the amount of money we get from the state from taxes- the state-allocated money to us. We need more of that in the system. I have to be honest; we need to lift these tuition freezes. In a store, you don't see prices stay constant for 10 years. I don't think a big jump would be good, but a little increase like seg fees just to support our staff is important.

Zwettler: What students do to help achieve these goals?

Hetzel: Two years ago, we had six or eight senators lobby in the capitol with us and that was great. We had three teams go from office to office to see key people and tell them the importance of this funding. I haven't heard from system how to do that this year with COVID. When I learn that, we will get that info out to Cate and Olivia.



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Ericson: Like every year, JCES has talked about a sustainability coordinator position on campus. With the additional tuition money after the freeze is up, would getting this position be a high priority? Could sustainability be a pillar for the next strategic plan?

Hetzel: let me start with this. The current legislation that student senate has on the green fund was written in the fall of 2007. I am proud that we have a green fund. Not all campuses have those. Year after year the question of a sustainability coordinator always comes up. It always a priority but so are positions everywhere else. I don't determine what positions get funded and what don't. We know sustainability is important to students and faculty so I would expect that when we get more money, we better make sure that is on the table for the discussion but we can't disregard other people and other positions elsewhere. As for the strategic plan, we have to get through COVID first, which will probably be in fall of '21 or spring of '22. Sustainability as a pillar didn't make the cut last time. When we created that, we had a lot different ideas and we will see the same thing next time so hopefully sustainability can make the cut this time.

Fitzgerald: I noticed that you mention “when COVID is over” a lot? What does that mean? Is it when a vaccine is out? Or what is your definition?

Hetzel: We will have to defer that stuff to the public health experts to get answers for that. I hope we have a vaccine in February or March. When the Dr. Fauci s of the world say it is safe, when they give us their word, that is when we will begin these programs again.

Fitzgerald: Regarding the HVAC system for the pool, is there one central system? Or is it just for the pool? How interconnected are these systems?

Hetzel: It is in zones and subsystems and with the additions over the years, it is very inefficient.

Fitzgerald: Can locker rooms be open while the pool is closed?

Hetzel: No, that's still not healthy with the circulation issues.

Fitzgerald: What about the other situation: could the pool be used without the locker rooms?

Hetzel: No, that still is the same problem.

I have another quick announcement before I am done where. When we were going through affordability in the presentation, I mentioned that we want to make sure that we are keeping cost down as much as possible. With that goal in mind, we are going to be giving every student who pays into textbook rental \$90 back



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this semester. Because of COVID, our faculty haven't ordered new books, so we will return the money we haven't spent.

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b. Dr. Gretchen Reinders

i. Reinders: Thank you! I love having time with students in this format that allows us to still connect with one another. I'm here to share with you some stuff about counseling. I am a psychologist and I have been with counseling and testing almost seven years now. I have some experience with senate, mostly just going through SUFAC meetings. Contrary to how I present this today, I also really want to have a dialogue. I have met with Olivia and Cate about our meeting today and we decided that my goal is to update with you on our services with the COVID-19 pandemic and the second pandemic of institutionalized racism.

So, what are we doing? If we go back to March, along the rest of the campus, we needed to adjust services on the turn of the dime. I am grateful to say that we have a great staff to provide telehealth services and no disruption in continuity. We were able to retain all of our staff. We switched our services to telephone first until we got Webex set up. We needed to have security that protected students' health information so that it would stay confidential. We are still currently providing exclusively remote services at this point. We spent a lot of time in the summer before students came back to prepare for all this. I should rephrase what I said about the spring. The only services that were disrupted in the spring were group counseling and outreach, in the form of let's talk. That all resumed this fall. Along with all our services, even when we had the safer at home mandates on campus the building was closed but our services were still open.

What is unique to this fall besides the pandemic is that this fall, despite the pandemics, we have seen a reduction in service demand.

This doesn't correspond with our increased services and new space developed over the summer. I'm sad that we can't show you all these new things, but we will show you soon! We have opportunities for growth within our space as well so we can continue to grow. Going back to the numbers relating to our services, the reduction is consistent nationally. When there are less people on campus, nationwide campus centers are showing a decrease as well. When you aren't physically there, students are well connected, have support at home. There are plenty of students with existing conditions that are well-functioning students and may not think to seek out our services like they normally would. We have been looking at advertising and doing it more- I know this isn't the quite word- but aggressively this year to get people in. We have been beefing up our self-help resources and working to increase awareness so students can get to know what is out there. We know that you get a lot of information all the time from so many outlets. I would love some feedback on how we can do better to educate students. We know that there is less of an opportunity to come into the office for the students and our staff. We have been advised not to do a lot of in person work. We know it isn't the same, but it



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is all we can do right now. We are doing the self-help health stuff and I hope you are aware of a direct result of the UW system behavioral health staff figured out system-wide access to a self-help platform called Silver Cloud. It is free for any UW-system student or faculty. It isn't therapy but there is really great science to back these modules. When our office isn't open at 3am and you can't sleep, you can do that to develop some coping skills. Since we don't have a lot of foot traffic right now, we have had some strong partnerships in non-traditional ways. Not everyone likes calls on the phone, not everyone is comfortable getting services. We know that very few students live alone so we have partnered with a couple folks to offer private spaces for students to take these calls and get the help they need. There is some space in the Cove to have a private space for a meeting of any sort along with the private study rooms in Centennial.

Mathu: I am just curious, are therapists and counselors in the office able to legally provide services to out of state students if they went home?

Reinders: So, our clinicians are licensed in the state. And if they can't, they can try to make arrangements to help. For example, if you live in La Crescent and go to Riverside Park to take the call, we can do it. We focused our energy on retaining emergency orders across state lines. You need an exam for each state, but we have emergency provisions so many of our staff have the flexibility to get the certificate thing for Iowa, Illinois, and Minnesota. For ongoing care, we would have to look at state law. A lot of the provisions in place are expiring at the end of this calendar year, so we will have to revamp our policies soon. We also have a clinical case manager to help students get their insurance figured out or to connect them with referrals to specialists who can help them. Right now, the state doesn't pay for licensure so only two of our staff have been able to get certified there in Minnesota. The reason we chose Minnesota was since the majority of our students who aren't from Wisconsin reside there.

Cayo: I know I ask you this every year. Where are you in the process of hiring a counselor of color?

Reinders: We have one now! We have worked hard. It sounds so white of me, but we have worked hard in our recent searches starting with diversity and inclusion to find the right person for the job. We changed our ads and our interview questions to try to get a diverse pool of applicants. We have been hiring exceptional people, but we still are a very white staff.

Wiza: I have two quick questions: how are you working to provide resources for staff? And what has the usage of Silver Cloud been?

Reinders: We support our faculty of staff within our full ability to do so. Our budget is funded by student seg fees so per our mission we can only serve students. We don't treat or diagnose faculty, but we can be a referral and



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outreach center for faculty asking for resources and we are happy to provide some consultation. We can also refer them to our EAP program and community resources for further help. This year, Silver Cloud is available for everyone in the UW system, so they are able to access that as well. We don't know the data on who is using that but a report will be at the end of the semester, as much as I want to see monthly data.

Schweiner: I was looking at the website and I see that appointments have to be called in and I know that is a stressor for with people with anxiety. Have you considered using myHealth for online scheduling?

Reinders: We do use myHealth for some services. That is our method to communicate with students who already have an established provider. It is also worth noting that the Student Health Center has suspended use of the online scheduler because of COVID. We have been looking more aggressively about that in the spring. We have so many different visit types that it can be hard for the students to decide what is the best for them. Also, when you look into the booking systems, students who were already established may use the system to switch providers, which is something we don't really want to happen. When we get to that point of implementing a new system, the key is to start with something small. For example, a first visit triage appointment. It isn't always individualized, and we want to see students sooner with new students so they can make that on their own.

We also have provided more services for students with greater anonymity with no paperwork or anything. These aren't a substitute for therapy, but it is a new thing that can be beneficial to those who need help.

I have two questions for you all and they are kind of related. We are doing the things that we think we should do, but how can we reach more of your peers? Related to that, the power of word of mouth is huge. If you think of your friends and people you care about need help, you just need to tell people go farther. Tell them the resources we have. They will most likely love to hear that someone cares. We have engaged in that education piece as well with Instagram work. It isn't ethical or appropriate to ask for student testimonies, we offer our Stomp Out Stigma Panel, and we do lots of other things. I think that is powerful to have students speaking to other students.

Fitzgerald: I'm not sure how it would work, but maybe you could do some sort of athlete-focused campaign because some people's sports got cancelled and that is a big outlet for a lot of people that is just gone. I am also on SAC student athlete committee and I can try to get them talked to about this as well, but there is a stigma and it is hard to break that in just an email but maybe that would help.

Reinders: That is a great idea! One more thing that I wanted to mention is that we aren't seeing a lot of cis male folks, but we are seeing a lot of females coming to receive our services and that is representative of our staff, which is something that I would like to change as well.



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Byrne: I just want to say from my perspective that I am surprised that we have less people seeking help this semester, with everything going on. I think that you should just make it known that there is availability. For people I know, an excuse they use is that it is busy and probably overbooked. So, I would just make it known that there is availability now.

Reinders: I was also very surprised, and I like that idea.

Schweiner: I'm sure you have probably already done this, but I would reach out to res life and educate RAs on what to say since they are a personal connection to a lot of students. Show them where to go and know the different services available so they can offer those to students.

Reinders: We do partner with them at the beginning of semester, but it can't hurt to do more training and such. We do offer a support group for RAs and I'm sorry to say that it didn't run this fall, but I will bring that up with Jenny again.

Navoichick: What is your Instagram? I tried to search "UWL counseling and testing" and nothing came up.

Reinders: We are using the main UWL page. We don't have a CTC Instagram because we don't have people to run the page. We also sometimes worry about the people posting when they really just need crisis resources. Because of the stigma piece as well, it is more generalized to just use the main page. You aren't looking for it, so it reduces stigma. If we had student staff, that would make sense to hire someone to run and monitor the page, but we can't due to our confidentiality policies.

Byrne: I was wondering if you guys have plans for extra campaigning infographics or anything during the holidays, because that is rough on people's mental health, especially with COVID. Seasonal depression and quarantine aren't a great combination.

Reinders: If you go to our self-help page, there are lots of resources for those sorts of specialties. Yes, we want to educate because home isn't always better for some students. We did that special stuff for the election with specific resources as well. We want to stay current with what our students are experiencing.

V. General Student Body Open Forum

a. Jacob Brehmer: I was here to talk about the pool. Bob didn't mention that for the '21- '23 renovations, that we have faced a lot of roadblocks in getting information. Bob mentioned that we moved to the Y and this means that we have a lot of interaction with the community. The Mitchell Hall pool isn't just for us, it is also for the community members. So many people come up to us at the Y because they see my UWL cap and ask when things will open again, and we don't know, and they don't know so it is frustrating. The people who have info won't give



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it out. I just want to make a plea to make a timeline for the construction and what is happening currently. It is complicated and there's a lot of weird stuff going on. We aren't expecting COVID to end anything soon. We are accepting that it won't be as easy to get in as we thought. We have come up with some short-term solutions as well. I'm here to plea for information and transparency with all this. Message Kat or Kim Bloom with ideas or questions or any help because we have been talking with them a lot.

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VI. Officer Reports

- a. **President:** Cate Wiza
 - i. There is surge testing on campus for six weeks. Share graphic we put on Instagram and Facebook. Tell your constituents to get tested before they go home or just to know that they are in the clear.
 - ii. I sent you all an email I got from UW-Oshkosh. UW-system president says they are looking for student body presidents to sign on to this document and forward it to government officials. It is a call for leaders to work together to rebuild the state and letting them know that we are here as resources and to please use us to get stuff done. Kudos to him for getting that done.
 - iii. If you need help writing resolutions, Olivia and I are always here to help.
- b. **Vice President:** Olivia Ahnen
 - i. I sent out a current committee list and it should be all filled in with the correct information but if you didn't get it or something is wrong, just let me know.
- c. **Director of Staff:** Faith Fisher
 - i. We are moving forward with the WOC ad hoc committee to split up the work. Camoya and I have been working on that resolution.
- d. **State Affairs Director:** Grant Mathu
 - i. There has been a fair amount of state government activity. Evers signed an executive order that is like a shelter in place but less enforceable. Limit outings, wear masks, pretty much what we have been doing already. Legislators are also considering making another COVID relief package.
- e. **Local Affairs Director:** Amy Schweiner
 - i. Just an announcement: remember alternate side parking- if it is an odd date, park on the side of the street with odd house numbers.
- f. **Inclusivity Director:** Camoya Evans
- g. **Public Relations Director:** Holly Korfmacher
- h. **Sustainability Director:** Jake Myers

VII. Advisor Reports

- a. We are working to develop a menu for dining over Thanksgiving. It will include a traditional thanksgiving meal along with some other things.
- b. I talked to Jake, Andrew, Cate, and Olivia about this- technically the dining contract would end at the end of next year. On July 1, 2022 we would have a new contractor coming in. We are feeling like we won't be in a good position to give that bid anytime soon. I am working on getting feedback from students to see what they



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want. There is the possibility of getting an extension that would come back to senate if possible.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. Cayo: SUFAC met Monday, we are working on finishing budget presentation.
- b. Zwettler: AIDAC just met on Tuesday and start hearings for budgets this next week as well.

IX. Organizational Reports

- a. Cayo: The Pride Center has 2 events: LGBTQ know your rights presentation about legal protections and a trans and non-binary student panel where they will talk about what it is like to be those people on campus. Look on Instagram and website for more info and the Zoom links.

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- b. Xiong: We have created a study session with Hmong students, this is a way to get together with your constituents. I know there are a lot of clubs that pertain to majors or colleges so I would suggest reaching out to them as a way to contact your constituents to possibly make a group like this so you get to know who you are representing.

10-minute recess, call to re-order 7:57

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

a. SA2021-023

- i. Ahnen: This is the swearing in of a new senator from the College of Science and Health.
- ii. Two-week rule suspended unanimously
- iii. Call to question and vote- passes unanimously
- iv. Wiza and Stader: swearing in

b. SA2021-024

- i. Cayo: In the third whereas, please change “the majority of undergrad classes are online” to “40% of those classes”.

What this resolution is- Senator Naviochick and I got an email from a constituent with concerns about coming back after Thanksgiving break. After we reached out to Brad and Betsy, it doesn't sound like UWL was planning on moving entirely online. We can't tell them what to do, but we want to implore them to be flexible with students who don't feel comfortable coming back after break. Hoping they will work with us and students on an individual level on this.

Nelson: A number of students have expressed concerns to me on this topic as well.

Naviochick: I was talking to someone who is in res life because this would be a big switch again if they did decide to do a shelter in place when we get back. We just want there to be more talk about it by the faculty.

Xiong: Wasn't it the faculty didn't want us gone for spring break? They think that going home now and coming back wouldn't they endanger students and their families? I think any movement at any time is not good.



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Cayo: I entirely agree but at this point, it would be a response, which is better than no response, so I think this is the best we could do.

Zwettler: I would like to call to question

Suspend 2-week rule passes unanimously

Ringgenberg: This is something that is not being talked about right now, but the university is in the process of talking about recommendations given to students. I think that could come out as early as tomorrow. I don't know if that is something that would prohibit you from passing this, but I anticipate needing to have some other discussions once that is released. I want some feedback about how you all feel about coming back.

Byrne: I think students and faculty are both very concerned about this. My professors are kind of old, this puts them at risk. There might be precedent for classes to go online.

Jeske: I am wondering if students who live on campus will have to get tested when they come back.

Ringgenberg: That is part of the discussion.

Jeske: I would be more comfortable if those coming back would be able or required to get tested right away.

Xiong: would it be appropriate to only allow those who are not in quarantine or only allow those with negative test results to go home?

Ringgenberg: Currently, we only have a small number of people on there so it shouldn't be a problem but students also always have the option to go home to quarantine so we can't force them to do anything.

Schauberger: What will on-campus services look like during Thanksgiving break?

Ringgenberg: We are currently working on it.

Wiza: I am going to pass it on to Regent Woodmansee for her opinion on this.

Woodmansee: I am a student and I work with the system. I want to mention that I would wait to pass this. I know that it is getting close but information that is going to come out soon will impact this discussion. About quarantine- if students are quarantining or if they test positive, we can't force them to stay here, many of the are choosing to go home and isolate there.



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Ott: I agree. I think that all students should have the option to finish online, but I am worried about what professors will do. Maybe change the language to saying the first week is completely online to account for testing. We can't all get tested in time for class if they all come back on Sunday. But if they expand that for the whole week, that would be more feasible.

Motion to table until next week passes unanimously

c. **SA2021-025**

i. Ahnen: This resolution outlines the creation of an ad hoc committee to help Faith and Camoya with the WOC scholarship.

Fisher: We want to see if we can get people to come together to email and ask businesses for financial support. Just splitting up the work would make our lives a lot easier.

Zwettler: I think there needs to be an accompanying motion to commit form from the website for an ad hoc committee.

Ahnen: We have it, I just haven't shared it on the screen since that is a uniform document.

ii. 2-week rule suspended unanimously

iii. Passes unanimously

XII. Discussion

a. Alternatives to spring break

i. Wiza: Kristen is here with me tonight. We were at faculty senate last week when this was discussed. Regarding a little mental health break, the two items discussed were a week without assignments or quizzes or asynchronous days throughout the semester, just to create a break like on election day. No classes but just homework and stuff. Propose that we have multiple days like that. We want to get your opinions and see where we can go from there.

Ericson: I am much more in favor of a couple days leading up to a weekend where we don't have assignments versus asynchronous classes. I won't say that it is too much of a relief compared to normal stuff.

Byrne: I would like to echo what Senator Ericson said. Days without assignments for maybe longer work periods would be the best option. With asynchronous classes, how could we make sure that would be enforced? Like my classes on election day still met.

Lenox: In Michigan, they have some days off planned out on Wednesdays; weekend breaks enforce people travelling. The only thing that I see is just having a day off on Wednesdays. Just do the no assignments and not just asynchronous on those select days. Once we go through that, we can work with



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other orgs to host events to give those days more appeal and actually make it alleviate some stress.

Navoichick: Question for Cate—would this need to be approved before the semester?

Wiza: We want this done before the end of the fall semester. Also, something to keep in mind is that different departments want these breaks on different days

Navoichick- I would like to echo Lenox's ideas.

Zwettler: While I think that having these days on Wednesday, it would help with travelling, but it wouldn't help with Tuesday/Thursday classes stress. Just having Wednesday wouldn't give students the mental break they deserve.

Schauberger: I do have a concern that people are going to go home anyway. Especially for the Easter weekend. It is kind of hard to even keep people from going home on a normal weekend. We aren't supposed to go back at all but is there really any way that we can prevent travel when Easter is going to be like Thanksgiving? I think we need to be thinking about precautions for when they get back. I know we have been doing a lot of activities, but I think we need to step it up. Activities is a way to keep people from going home and help with mental stress.

Weghorn: As we have discussed, I am not sure how relieving it would be to have asynchronous classes for a day or two. Especially if other departments are doing different days, I don't know how much of a break that would be. I would push for no homework no quizzes especially with the different department thing.

Zager: I think it wouldn't be as stress relieving, but it would be a good time to catch up if someone is behind on their work. Going through a semester like this is going to be hard and people are going to go home regardless. Just having a catch-up day would be beneficial.

Naviochick: I would like to yield my time to Wiza

Wiza: How many breaks would be needed throughout the semester. If it is broken up, how many days would be needed in each break? Think about how you are doing this semester, because it will be very similar.

Byrne: I know for me, going to class itself isn't bad it is the assignments and such. Is there any way to have classes with no assignments? Still in person class but no homework. They wouldn't be able to go home because they have actual class, but it would be less work.



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Zwettler: In response to Wiza, I would think two or three throughout the semester would be good. More would be ideal, but I don't know if that is possible.

Wiza: Here is some stuff from UW-Stevens Point and what they are doing: [https://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Pages/Academic%20Affairs%20Update.%2010-15%20\(Please%20Read%20Changes%20to%20Fall%20Semester%20Schedule\).pdf?fbclid=IwAR2_WcchZ2FhCV8HuAZMxffup-PbFe88bwr6zC-FqBjTYPueNwqkwN9pRo](https://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Pages/Academic%20Affairs%20Update.%2010-15%20(Please%20Read%20Changes%20to%20Fall%20Semester%20Schedule).pdf?fbclid=IwAR2_WcchZ2FhCV8HuAZMxffup-PbFe88bwr6zC-FqBjTYPueNwqkwN9pRo) , [https://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Pages/Academic%20Affairs%20Update.%2010-15-20%20\(Please%20Read%20Changes%20to%20Fall%20Semester%20Schedule\).pdf?fbclid=IwAR0H3uikP77Clbxjz0BZtyioh0JqxOp5l5JM0hR5SCYGYx8mkUjsjh0VvxA](https://www.uwsp.edu/acadaff/Pages/Academic%20Affairs%20Update.%2010-15-20%20(Please%20Read%20Changes%20to%20Fall%20Semester%20Schedule).pdf?fbclid=IwAR0H3uikP77Clbxjz0BZtyioh0JqxOp5l5JM0hR5SCYGYx8mkUjsjh0VvxA)

Koepke: I work in the Faculty Development Center. I am here to listen to your ideas on this topic. I think it is Sophie who mentioned just suspending classes and flexibility for due dates and I like that idea. What are ways we can provide some breaks into the flow of course work? We like hearing your ideas. A break in one class may help with other classes. More flexibility to keep up with all your work. It is going to be a long semester, so we want to hear what you have to say.

Weghorn: Having extended due dates would be good but I'm afraid that it is going to be something of a catch-up day. We want to give time away from school. I think we should be trying to keep that goal in mind.

b. First Year Student Engagement

i. Ahnen: You all know how hard it is to connect during your first year on campus and we want to bring this onto the agenda to talk about how we can get first years to connect in a safe way.

Zwettler: I think this is a question that could best be answered by our first-year senators. If they have any firsthand accounts or anything. Share your thoughts.

Zager: I am a first-year student I have only made two friends and I think I'm an outgoing person but being outgoing doesn't matter because I can't go anywhere. I can't go to other people's dorms because we can't go sit in the U or library and there aren't a lot of options outside with how cold it is. During those few weeks we were under the shelter in place order, my roommates and I just sat there. We can't just tell first years to go hang out. Virtual stuff is helping but at this point in the semester, people have made a few friends, so you are stuck at where you are now.

Cayo: This might not be applicable, but the Pride Center has done some socially distant marsh walks and hikes and it has been good outlet. It has been engaging but it is only for the able-bodied people. It also has worked in the context of a



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small organization. That is the only thing that I am thinking about. But I will get to you later

Byrne: I don't know if it is possible, but it sounds like gathering spaces are needed outside of the dorm. The U isn't feasible in the tables because of the distance needed. Can the bluffs room be opened so social distance and masks and stuff? Still be face to face from different dorms, but have the space to meet?

Zager: The thing is that there are big spaces, but I didn't know that those existed. I didn't know until I just went and walked around the U most people aren't going to do that. The easiest option is just to go to dorms and stuff.

Xiong: I am curious as to what the RA's are doing to connect? Snapchat is the thing we can play games on there. Just a way to keep in touch.

Zager: I live in Angell and recently they did a photo showdown between Angell and Hutch but that's it. We do virtual events with the RA but not many people show up.

Zwettler: What if we did a virtual mixer? Get in a huge Zoom call and do random breakout rooms so you can meet new people.

Wiza: I love that idea! I am in a sorority and we meet virtually and it's great. We talk and hang out and we can totally put that together. Here is my idea at least just for our senate members. I don't know many of you unless you were on senate last year. What if we do a senate "happy hour" bring your favorite beverage and snack and we can get to know each other. We can meet the people we are working with and this can help you make connections to write resolutions. Olivia, Faith and I will be planning this and get more information out soon.

Ahnen: How about I send out a doodle poll thing and we can figure out when to do this?

Xiong: I know that Among Us has been popular. If we did that as a little group? And a game of mafia works well over Zoom too.

c. Ranking senior senators

i. Zwettler: As I was watching the senate to do their confirmation hearings, I noticed that they had various titles in committees, referred to as the ranking member. I don't see why we couldn't use it now. All the people on AIDAC are new senators and we are trying to figure out how things work with little to no experience. My proposal is that after the spring election to assign all re-elected senators as "ranking" so that each committee would have at least one person who knew what they were doing. Then add the new senators into the committees.



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Ott: I like the ideas of splitting them up, but I don't know if we need a special title. Just put one on each committee. I would ask about the nomenclature and what that would look like.

Zwettler: If I could answer- I would think we could do "first", "second", "third", but it is a distinction between your year in school and your experience years being in senate.

Byrne: I like what you said, both of you with titles and such. Maybe use "returning".

Wiza: I am going to say how I feel. It does create a hierarchy and is a little elitist. We did the best we could when putting committees together. I understand the concern. I was on AIDAC as well and I understand how it may be difficult to learn the ropes, but I see that as becoming elitist and I wouldn't support this.

Yuengst: Something I was thinking about was splitting up senators having to move to even things out.

Ott: Second that. I was on a committee last year and I really loved it and I would want to stay on that and not be taken away just for balance

Zwettler: I totally understand all these reservations and I just wanted to bring this forward. Thanks to Cate and Olivia for all the work you do to keep things balanced.

XIII. Announcements

- a. Zwettler: Reminder to AIDAC that we meet next Tuesday at 5:30 to start budget hearing! Please read the budgets first.
- b. Ericson: JCES meeting on Friday so please be there so that we can actually vote on large grants!

XIV. Adjournment

- a. 9:06