

BYLAWS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN -- LA CROSSE STUDENT SENATE

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1.1-

The name of this governing body shall be the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate, hereafter “Student Senate.”

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

Section 2.1-

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Senate exists to serve as a representative body of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association. The Student Senate will represent students by promoting, advocating and working on student rights and student issues.

ARTICLE III – MISSION STATEMENT

UW-L Student Senate seeks to provide a student voice by advocating for student rights and responsibilities, fostering leadership, communicating student issues, and demonstrating respect for diversity in our actions.

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.1-

In accordance with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association, hereafter “UWLSA,” the Student Senate membership shall consist of thirty-four (34) voting members. Seventeen (17) of these members must be elected by their respective colleges, two (2) of the seats will be for Freshmen, two (2) of the seats will be for Graduate students, three (3) other members which will be defined in a subsequent subsection, and ten (10) members shall be reserved for diversity organization representation.

3.101- College Representatives will comprise seventeen (17) of the total thirty-four (34) senators. Representation for each college will be determined by taking the percentage that the number of students in each college or school represents in the total school population.

The power is granted to the Vice President to appoint students to open senate seats after May elections, regardless of college affiliation. Upon appointment, Student Senate must approve all appointees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

3.102- Human Diversity Organizations – 10 Senators, 1 Senator for each of the following organizations:

- (a) Latin American Student Organization (LASO)
- (b) Black Student Unity (BSU)
- (c) Disability Rights, Education, Activism, & Mentoring (DREAM)
- (d) Pride Center
- (e) Native American Student Association (NASA)
- (f) Asian Student Organization (ASO)
- (g) Hmong Organization Promoting Education (HOPE)
- (h) International Student Organization (ISO)
- (i) Student Veteran Organization (SVO)
- (j) Asian, Latina, African, Native American Womyn (ALANA)

The above mentioned ten (10) seats will be on a permanent basis for the organization. The organizations will elect their senate membership every year. The duration and the membership can be modified because of the following reasons:

- (1) In the case that a student organization is unable to elect a person during the first six (6)

weeks of a new Senate term, that particular Senate seat can be awarded for one (1) Senate term to another Human Diversity Organization (as defined by University Centers) through an application process defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.

- (2) If a student organization mentioned above is no longer recognized by the University Centers then the Senate seat can be awarded on a permanent basis through the application processed defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.
- (3) In case of an increase in the number of seats for Human Diversity Organization the increased seats will be awarded for a two (2) year term to a recognized Human Diversity Organization by an application process defined by the Human Diversity Organization Committee.

3.103 – Other Senators – 3 Senators

- (a) Fraternity & Sorority Life Senator (FSL) – 1 Senator
- (b) Athletics – 1 Senator
- (c) Rotating – 1 Senator

(ii) The Rotating Senate seat can be awarded to another organization (as defined by University Centers) for one (1) Senate term through an application process defined by the Student Organizations Committee and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.

The seats mentioned above will be on a permanent basis for the organization/constituency. The organizations/constituency will elect their senate membership every year. The duration and the membership can be modified because of the following reasons:

- (1) In the case that a student organization/constituency is unable to elect a person before the seventh meeting of a new Senate term, that particular Senate seat can be awarded for one (1) Senate term to another organization (as defined by University Centers) through an application process defined by the Student Organization Committee.
- (2) If a student organization mentioned above is no longer recognized by the University Centers then the Senate seat can be awarded on a permanent basis through the application processed defined by the Student Organization Committee and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate

3.104 – Specially elected Senators – 4 Senators

- (a) First-Year Students– 2 Senators
- (b) Graduate Students– 2 Senators

The power is granted to the Vice President to appoint students to open senate seats after Fall elections, regardless of their year on campus or degree they are seeking. Students who fill these seats and are not a member of the specified group will then become At-Large Senators. Upon appointment, Student Senate must approve all appointees by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE V – POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 4.1- Student Senate

4.101- Provide the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, UW-System, and Wisconsin governing bodies with recommendations and resolutions showing student viewpoint on issues.

4.102- Approve and amend resolutions brought forth by any Primary Committee of Student Association. Financial resolutions must pass by a 2/3 vote.

- (a) Primary Committees are those that handle issues over which the student body is the final authority.
- (b) These include: Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC), Student Services and Buildings Committee, Legislative Affairs Committee, Student Organizations Committee, and Human Diversity Organization Committee.

- 4.103- Endorse resolutions brought forth by any Secondary Committee of Student Association.
 - (a) Secondary Committees are those that handle issues over which the student body is not the final authority but should be consulted.
 - (b) These include: Academic Initiatives Differential Allocation Committee (AIDAC).
- 4.104- Gather opinions from the student body.
 - (a) Student Senators shall take an active role in promoting use of student buildings and services on campus.
- 4.105- Develop policies and issue opinions on behalf of the student body.
- 4.106- Conduct weekly open meetings while the fall and spring terms are in session.
- 4.107- Respectfully consider all student issues in the spirit of the Student Senate Mission Statement.
- 4.108- Maintain records of all legislative procedures, including minutes in a consistent format established by the President of the Senate at the beginning of each meeting.
- 4.109- Elect a President Pro-Tempore who shall serve as chair of the Senate meetings when the President of the Senate is unable to fulfill his/her duties by a majority.
- 4.111- Approve any recommendations brought forward by the Student Services and Buildings Committee.
- 4.112- Approve all members of the Court Justices, Election Commission, Replacement Senators and Board of Directors through a 2/3 vote.
- 4.113- Award someone from outside the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association with, "The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse Student Association Higher Education Advocate of the Year."
 - (a) This award will highlight and thank the achievements of someone outside the organization that has promoted students to be an active part of the community and has been an advocate for students at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.
 - (b) Nominations for the award will be solicited until April 15th and the Executive Cabinet shall decide who will receive the award.
 - (c) The award shall be presented during a special ceremony sponsored by the Student Senate and coordinated through the President of the Student Senate.
 - (d) The ceremony shall take place within the last two weeks of April each year.

Section 4.2- Membership

- 4.201- Members of the Student Senate shall be in attendance at every Student Senate meeting.
 - (a) Senators are allowed two (2) excused absences per semester with pre-approval from the President of the Senate.
 - (b) Senators are allowed one (1) unexcused absence per year.
- 4.202- Senators shall actively serve on a minimum of one (1) student or faculty committee. Senators are expected to fill vacant committee seats after all Senators have already fulfilled their one (1) committee requirement.
- 4.203- Senators shall hold at least one (1) registered office hour per week. They shall also attend one organizational meeting pertaining to their constituency per every two weeks. Hours shall be posted in the Student Senate office as well as available to the public through the UWLSA website.
- 4.204- Senators shall be active participants in the fall and spring UWLSA leadership training sessions, including the Fall Retreat coordinated by the President of the Senate.
- 4.205- Student Senators shall conduct themselves in a respectful fashion both within and outside of

Student Senate meetings. Behavior that degrades the respect and reputation of the Student Senate will not be tolerated.

4.206- Speaking Rights

(a) Senators shall be given two (2) opportunities to on each motion. A senator wishing to speak beyond their allotted time must be yielded to by a senator who has not exhausted his or her speaking rights.

(b) Senators may only yield to guests including the UWLSA Executive Cabinet once per speaking term. Guests may not yield any time to anyone and must yield back to the Senator after concluding their remarks.

(c) Directors will be allowed to present a report to the Senate, but are only allowed speaking rights when they have a point of information or point of clarification. These actions shall be deemed necessary by the chair and Directors will only be allowed to speak after the chair acknowledged them and granted permission for them to speak. The chair may cut off the point of information or point of clarification from a Director at any time. This may be objected by the body if deemed inappropriate as well as the body's ability to challenge the chair.

4.207- Impeachment

(a) Any UWLSA member or Senator can petition the Legislative Affairs Committee to initiate an investigation of any position in the UWLSA accused of being in major violation of a national, state, or local law; of a violation of a major University policy; of failure to uphold the Constitution, appropriate By-Laws, or legislation passed by the UWLSA; of failure to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this Constitution; or any abuses of power.

(b) Petition 4

i. The petition to the Legislative Affairs Committee should be in the form of a letter detailing the charges against the accused.

ii. A resolution requesting an impeachment investigation must accompany the letter and be presented to the UWLSA.

iii. To initiate an impeachment investigation the resolution must be passed by Student Senate with majority vote requesting that the Legislative Affairs Committee investigate.

(c) The Investigation process is outlined in the Legislative Affairs Committee By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI – PROCEDURES

Section 5.1-

The format of the Student Senate agenda shall be decided by the President of the Senate at the first meeting of each semester and approved by the Student Senate by 2/3 majority. The agenda may consist of the following line items in this order:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes
 - b. Approval of Agenda
- IV. General Student Body Open Forum
- V. Guest Speakers
- VI. Officer Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Director of Staff
 - d. Legislative Affairs Director
 - e. State Affairs Director
 - f. Local Affairs Director
 - g. Sustainability Director
 - h. Inclusivity Director
 - i. Public Relations Director
- VII. Advisor Reports
- VIII. Committee Reports
- IX. Organizational Reports

- X. Unfinished Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Discussion
- XIII. Announcements
- XIV. Adjournment

5.101- Student Senate must act in accordance with open meetings law. Thus, notice of meeting (with a complete and accurate agenda) must be given at least 24 hours before the meeting commences. To add an item to the agenda after notice of meeting has been sent out, an addendum to the meeting notice may be posted. This notice must be sent 24 hours before the meeting, in accordance with open meetings law. No item may be added to the agenda less than 24 hours before a meeting.

In addition, all documents shall be submitted to the President of the Senate at least 48 hours in advance of the weekly meeting time. Any document submitted to the President of the Senate less than 48 hours in advance may be added at the discretion of the President. However, all additions must be in accordance with open meetings law.

5.102- The President of the Senate shall record any guests present at the meeting.

ARTICLE VII – COMMITTEES

Section 6.1-

The following committees shall be standing committees of the UWLSA Student Senate. Membership, powers, and responsibilities within the committees shall be governed by the respective committee by-laws. If any of these committees changes its name, these bylaws will be adjusted accordingly.

- 6.101- Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee (SUFAC)
- 6.102- Student Services and Buildings Committee
- 6.103- Legislative Affairs Committee
- 6.104- Student Organizations Committee
- 6.108- Academic Initiatives Differential Allocation Committee (AIDAC)
- 6.110- Human Diversity Organization Committee
- 6.112- Scholarships & Awards Committee
- 6.113 Green Fund Committee

Section 6.2-

The standing committees of the UWLSA Student Senate are responsible for following open meeting laws. The Chair of each committee is required to submit their meeting information to the open meetings calendar 24 hours before the meeting occurs. It mandatory to include the date, time, location, and agenda for that meeting.

Every UWLSA Committee will elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. It is the responsibility of the Committee Secretary to take minutes at each meeting. Minutes must include the date, time, location of the meeting, roll call, motions, and votes.

The Chair of each committee must send meeting minutes to the UWLSA Secretary and University Centers to be published on the website.

Section 6.3-

The President of the Senate may create and fold ad-hoc committees with a majority approval of the Senate. They shall determine the membership of the committee with consultation from the Student Senate.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Section 7.1-

Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any senator at any time. All amendments must go

through a two week process in which the first week the amendments are presented in the Student Senate new business. The second week, the amendments are presented in unfinished business and must be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

ARTICLE IX – ENACTMENT

Section 8.1-

These bylaws shall take effect immediately starting the new session on the first meeting in May, 2019.

Ratified and Enacted 04/21/2021