

BYLAWS OF THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION:

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS COMMITTEE**

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

**Section I: Name** – The name of this committee shall be the Student Organizations Committee, a standing committee of Student Senate (UWL Student Association).

**ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**Section I: Purpose – The Purpose of this committee is to:**

- a) Make recommendations to the Student Senate in regards to general policies concerning campus wide student organizations
- b) Form general policies which govern student organizations
- c) Maintain oversight over all student organization bylaws, events, and activities
- d) Approve all new student organization requests
- e) Provide a means for non-budgeted organizations to request segregated fee funding. The Student Organizations Committee may also assist in the evaluation of organizations for full budgetary standing.
- f) Select commencement speakers for fall and spring graduation
- g) Approve commencement regalia
- h) Handle other duties given by Student Association

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1: Inclusivity of Membership**

- a) The extension of membership and all membership privileges, including voting and eligibility to hold office, shall be given to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender (except as otherwise permitted by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972), disability, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or veteran status.
- b) The University of Wisconsin - La Crosse Student Organizations Committee recognizes and values the diverse identities, backgrounds, and beliefs of our faculty and of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse student body. Our definition of diversity includes, but is not limited to ability, age, class, documentation status, gender identity, language, military status, nationality, race, religion, and sexual orientation. We are committed to providing and promoting an

environment free of prejudice by addressing issues of equity and justice in our community, and we support the success of marginalized identities.

## **Section II: Voting Members**

- a) Student Representatives – The student membership shall consist of six (6) students, one (1) of which may be a student employee of the Leadership and Involvement Center, one (1) of which may be a member Campus Activities Board, and one (1) of which may be a student employee of University Centers, two (2) of which must be a Senator, and one (1) of which may be an at-large student approved by the Student Organization Committee
- b) Faculty – One (1) faculty member shall be appointed by the Faculty Senate
- c) Academic Staff – One (1) academic staff member shall be appointed by the Academic Staff Council

## **Section III: Non-Voting Members**

- a) One (1) member of University Centers Staff
- b) One (1) Graduate Assistant member of the University Centers staff

## **Section IV: Elections**

- a) Officers – The committee shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a secretary from its membership. This will be done by the end of the first meeting of the year by a majority cast for each office.
- b) Terms -- The officers shall serve for one academic year and their term shall begin immediately after election.
- c) Vacancy – If a vacancy of the chairperson occurs; the vice-chairperson shall assume the office of chairperson. If a vacancy of the vice-chairperson or recorder occurs, a new election shall take place.
- d) Eligibility – All officers shall be students and must be enrolled in a minimum of at least half time or 6 credits.

## **ARTICLE IV: RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Section I: Budgetary Considerations**

- a) The committee shall monitor and keep the Student Senate informed of the financial status of all areas of responsibility

### **Section II: Recommendations**

- a) The committee is responsible for the oversight and management of student organization bylaws.
- b) The committee shall approve new Student Organizations.
- c) The committee shall recommend actions or measures relating to organizations which the committee deems in the best interest of the student body of UWL. The

committee shall receive student organization grievances. All grievances will be reviewed by the committee and a determination made as to who should hear the case, the committee or student court.

- d) The committee shall be responsible for the allocation of Organization Grants.
- e) The committee shall select commencement speakers.
- f) The committee shall approve regalia submitted by organizations for graduation.

### **Section III: Allocation of Senate Seats**

- a) Fraternity & Sorority Life Senator (FSL) – 1 Senator
- b) Athletics – 1 Senator
- c) Rotating – 1 Senator
- d) The Senate seats (a & b) mentioned above will be on a permanent basis for the organization/constituency. The organizations/constituency will elect their senate membership every year. The Rotating Senate seat shall vary each year and be awarded to an organization (as defined by University Centers) for one (1) Senate term through an application process conducted by the Student Organizations Committee and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate. The duration and the membership can be modified because of the following reasons:
  - a. In the case that an organization/constituency named above 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 Organizations Committee.
  - b. If a named organization/constituency 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 Organizations Committee and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate

## **ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

### **Section I: Chairperson**

- a) Call meeting of the committee.
- b) Preside at meetings of the committee
- c) Prepare and establish the agenda for the committee at least 24 hours in advance of meeting.
- d) Act as official representative of the committee.
- e) Serve as or appoint an ex-officio member of all sub-committees.
- f) Provide reports to the Student Senate regarding committee actions and recommendations
- g) Conduct an application process to select a student organization to hold the Rotating Senate seat
- h) Excuse absences of the committee members.

## **Section II: Vice-Chairperson**

- a) Preside at all meetings of the committee in the absence of the chairperson.
- b) Assume the position of the chairperson if the chairperson becomes unable to perform the duties of office.
- c) Excuse the chairperson from meetings.
- d) Aid the chairperson in coordination of committee activities.

## **Section III: Recorder**

- a) Record the minutes of all committee meetings.
- b) Distribute all minutes to the committee.
- c) Maintain a file of committee minutes from the beginning of the year.

## **ARTICLE VI: VOTING**

### **Section I: Quorum**

- a) A quorum will consist of half of the voting members plus one.

### **Section II: Motions**

- a) Action of the committee shall be by a majority vote of quorum, with the exception of organization grant and financial decisions, which will require two-thirds (2/3) vote.

## **ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS**

### **Section I: Convening of the First Meeting**

- a) It shall be the Vice-President of Student Association's duty to appoint a student member to convene the committee within the first three weeks of each academic year.

### **Section II: Meetings**

- a) Meetings shall be held at the discretion of the chairperson during the academic year.

### **Section III: Special Meetings**

- a) The chairperson may call special meetings by providing written notice to all committee members within twenty-four (24) hours.
- b) The Student Organizations Committee may create subcommittees to enforce established policies and procedures and to recommend new policies as deemed necessary. Each subcommittee shall have a list of policies and procedures approved by the Student Organizations Committee.

#### **Section IV: Open Meetings**

- a) All meetings will be held in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

#### **Section V: Parliamentary Procedure**

- a) Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall be used as the parliamentary authority.

#### **Section VI: Business Conduct**

- a) The committee will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, the University of Wisconsin-System, and the State of Wisconsin.

### **ARTICLE VIII: ATTENDANCE**

#### **Section I: Attendance**

- a) A simple majority of voting membership shall constitute quorum for conducting business

#### **Section II: Excused Absences**

- a) All absences will be excused by the chairperson when contacted by the absent member at least 12 hours before the meeting time.
- b) Each committee member is allowed two (2) unexcused absences.
  - a. More than two (2) unexcused absences in a semester will result in dismissal from the committee.
- c) Should a dismissal occur, a replacement should be sought out in the area from which the dismissed member was from. If a member from that area cannot be found, any interested individual shall be considered.

### **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS**

#### **Section I: Amendments**

- a) Amendments to the Student Organizations Committee bylaws shall require two-thirds (2/3) vote of the committee and approval of the Student Senate.
  - a. Enacted May 5, 2010
  - b. Amended April 16, 2014
  - c. Amended May 6, 2015
  - d. Amended April 27, 2016
  - e. Amended October 25, 2019
  - f. Amended August 19, 2021