



A regular meeting of the 66th Session of the Student Senate was called to order at 6:04 PM on Monday, January 30, 2023, in the Woodland Theater of the Davies Student Center, with President Gaitan chairing the meeting.

### Land Acknowledgment

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“I/We acknowledge that the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire occupies the sacred and ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples. I/We honor the land of the Ojibwe and Dakota Nations.”

### Military Acknowledgement

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“We acknowledge the sacrifices made by those who protect the physical and diplomatic safety of United States citizens and our affiliates. We thank military service members for their commitment to our country.”

### 66th Session Roll Call – 1/30/2023

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#### Executive Board

Title	Name	Status (Present, Excused, Unexcused) (P/E/U)
Senate Personnel Director	Anakah Denison	P
Parliamentarian	Thomas Miller	P
AA Director	Sahana Suresh	P
Communications Director	Ivan San	E
ESM Senate Director	Josh Holness	P
Finance Director	Ben Johnson	P
ITC Director	Joseph Dokken	P
IGA Director	Hannah Kelly	P
SOS Director	Sydney McGuine	P
SOC Director	Bradford Heap	P
UAC Director	Zach Jacobson	P
Mascot Coordinator	Kyle May	P



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 30, 2023**  
**PRESIDENT GAITÁN**  
**VICE PRESIDENT FARMER**

**On-Campus Senators**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Samantha Consiglio</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Solveig Dei</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Austin Lallak</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Benjamin Myszka</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Brenna Strojinc</b>	<b>P</b>

**Off-Campus Senators**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Jake Hicks</b>	<b>P</b>

**At-Large Senators**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Livvy Argo</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Mei Bean</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Avery De Ruyter</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Patrick Hill</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Ben Hurley</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Taylor Kaplan</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Matthew Lehner</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Katie Myszka</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Vivian Ong</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Allie Russel</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Allana Valiente</b>	<b>U</b>



<b>Tristan Weasler</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Rebecca Yoshino</b>	<b>U</b>

**Executive Officers**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Brett Farmer</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Rossellin Gaitán</b>	<b>P</b>

**Presentation**

<b>Entity; Topic</b>	<b>Questions</b>
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**Open Forum**

<b>Entity; Topic</b>	<b>Questions</b>
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**Misc. Notes:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/12/22**

Meeting minutes approved unanimously.

**AMENDMENT:** 66-B-9, Amending Chapter III, Section 3, Part 10 , Line Item 12, introduced last meeting, was not voted upon on 12/12/22 (editorial).

**REPORT: President – Rossellin Gaitán**

Hello, Again Folks and Happy National School Day of Non-violence and Peace.

Thank you again as we begin our final semester of the 66th Session. For those of you who have been here from the beginning or joined later on, thank you for continuing to show up with bright faces and strong wills. By the end of this semester, we will be able to finish stronger and set our org up for success next year. But before I begin my spiel, a little about my break. This past break, I celebrated the holidays, Fell on the ice pretty hard, and Met with Administration, Vice Chancellor Crickette, Vice Chancellor Felz, Dean Heinselman, and finally, Chancellor Schmidt. I met with other UW sister schools and spoke about a



fun opportunity you will hear about later. I was invited to the State of the State Address at our beautiful state capitol, completed a winter course, worked part-time, attended my first NBA game, and finally completed some needed Senate work and got to thinking about some ideas for Directors and overall goals for our Semester.

Now, for this semester, I want us not just to succeed but I want to think and grow. That doesn't mean writing every piece of legislation but engaging with our campus, attending events, and getting more in tune with what we want. So that is what our goal is; it is to grow and move on together. As we continue through this session, I want you to remember why you joined. You joined because something about this org sparked you; your friend joined, so you wanted to join, or being a part of something or voicing your opinions was important to you. To be heard. And if that wasn't a reason, then I certainly hope that's why you stayed.

Senators, you were chosen for a reason, either through election or by interview. Directors, you were nominated for a reason, and you, too, are still here for a reason. We have all collectively decided that we wouldn't quit and would continue to show up daily. So, find it. Harvest it. Let it fuel you.

Through this, we can look back and be proud of what we accomplished here and though many times when starting significant change, we aren't always able to see it through to the end, that beginning spark is vital. It is important.

So, thank you, everyone, for continuing to push, trusting me, and being here. As we start the final semester, I hope to continue to be your cheerleader, an advocate, and a helping hand.

I Yield.

### **REPORT: Vice President – Brett Farmer**

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Good evening everyone welcome back to campus!

I hope you all had a great break and first day of the semester!

I had a fairly busy and productive break, spent in and out of the office, in the pool, and partly in Puerto Rico!

In terms of Senate work, I was able to hold several meetings with some departments and people around campus to begin planning and prepping for this spring! I have spent some time planning to attend the Chippewa Valley Rally alongside director Kelly. Director San and I are developing the return of a Student Senate newsletter to be sent out to the student body, which we hope to distribute later this week so keep an eye out for that! I also met with Chancellor Schmidt, several vice chancellors and Dean Heinselman to lay out some goals and objectives for this semester, but also for some regular updates and conversations about upcoming projects. President Gaitan and I also met several times to plan some



upcoming Senate events, talk about potential lobbying opportunities for our body, and once again, just the direction we'd like to go and projects we want to tackle in the remainder of this session.

Additionally, Director Denison and I have ironed out plans for one last vacancy process to be had this session before election season approaches. The vacancy application is live now on Blugold Connect+, so we will begin to advertise it, but I encourage all of you to send it to your friends and share it on social media. We currently have several vacancies and, as I mentioned, this will be our last vacancy process this session, so we would ideally like to fill all open spots and have a full session through the remainder of the 66th. We will accept applications through Friday, February 17th and plan to hold interviews the following week.

Lastly, make sure to take care of yourself this semester, but especially through these first few weeks! There's always lots of stress and sickness going around until we all find our new semester grooves, so please reach out if you need anything and try to stay healthy and rested! I yield.

Q: How many vacancies do we have right now? A: Unknown, around ten.

Q: What are the logistics of the lobbying trips? A: One of the trips is organized by the Chamber of Commerce, mainly lobbying for the new science building, likely a small group, just VP Farmer, Dir Kelly and a few other members.

### **REPORT: Senate Personnel Director – Anakah Denison**

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Happy Monday all!

I hope you all stayed warm over break—mine was a bit more eventful than I would have hoped, with our furnace breaking during the coldest part of the month over Christmas, but nonetheless, I am happy to be back on campus for the spring semester. Over break I kept busy, including attending the Emergency Preparedness Committee where I learned quite a bit about safety procedures on our campus, including the blue emergency poles and Narcan distribution, so if you have any questions about that, I would be happy to help you out. As VP Farmer mentioned, we have been planning for this semester's vacancy process, so make sure to recommend the application to motivated and involved individuals you know on campus. I know I joined Senate through encouragement and mentorships from other students—consider if you can be this person for someone else. Be on the lookout for emails from me concerning office and outreach hours for this semester, and please reach out if you are interested in any particular projects or initiatives.

Director Suresh was the first to turn in her report at 5:45 pm last Thursday, so congratulations once again!

I look forward to working with you all this semester!

I yield



Q: Is the vacancy committee full? A: I believe it had four members originally, at least three of those members are still active, so it is almost full, but would have to check the original legislation to be sure.

## **REPORTS: Board of Directors**

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### **Communication Commission Director – Ivan San**

Howdy everyone! First off, welcome back, I hope everyone had a re-energizing break and are ready for another great semester! Over break, my intern and I worked on lots of advertising materials and groundwork for projects this semester. Sadly, we did not have a Motivation Monday this morning, but we will next week at ~12:00 in front of Davies! I'll keep it short, but I'm excited to show you all & everyone else on campus what our org is about through the new advertisements. I hope everyone has a good week & has a smooth transition back into school, Comms out.

### **Equity in Student Matters Senate Director – Josh Holness**

What's cookin', good lookin's?

I hope everyone had an amazing and well-deserved winter break! Rosa and I are so excited to start this semester hitting the ground running! We have a number of projects we're looking forward to. To name a few: Diverse free libraries on campus, addition of tribal flags around campus, an EDI campus survey, and working on creating academic components for the EDI certificate!

We're also planning restorative justice circles with Director Emmanuelle of the CRRJ and introductory meetings with executive EDI staff!

Additionally, there are several Black History Month celebrations happening on campus:

February 7th: Sixth Annual MLK Celebration Schofield Auditorium - 5 PM

February 11th: The Black Experience Dakota Ballroom - 11 AM

February 22nd: The Half-Life of Freedom, Race, & Justice in America Today:

Jelani Cobb Schofield Auditorium & Online - 7:30 PM

February 28: Black Essence Ojibwe Ballroom - 5 p.m.

Tickets available here: [uwec.universitytickets.com](http://uwec.universitytickets.com)

ESM meets 3:30PM to 4:30PM in the Council Oak Room next Wednesday! Be there!



Remember to be better!

Josh

Q: In regards to the Black History Month events, are they student or administrative organized? A: Some of both, the MLK Event is Admin organized, but the Black Student Alliance is planning an event called the Black Experience, and MSS is hosting Black Essence, all that info and more will be sent out Wednesday.

#### **Finance Commission Director – Ben Johnson**

Hello everyone, I hope you all had a rejuvenating winter break and welcome back to campus. This semester Finance commission will have a little less on our plate, so if anyone has initiatives that they are interested in perusing and would like to involve the Finance Commission please reach out to me. With that I am also looking to hiring an intern to help with agendas, meeting minutes and other tasks, a few hours a week and it is paid. The application can be found on Blugold Connect and for more information please contact me. Finance Commission will meet Wednesdays at 5:00, the location will change week to week so be on the lookout for the location posted in the weekly agenda. If you are interested in joining Finance Commission or know someone who is, please send them my way. Our first meeting of the new semester will be held next week, this week focus on classes and getting back into the groove of school. I hope you all have a wonderful semester.

#### **Intergovernmental Affairs Commission Director – Hannah Kelly**

Hello everyone! I hope you are all feeling rested and ready for spring semester! Over break I kept myself busy by working on the IGA page of the Student Senate website, planning for future events, working with senators on LPS initiatives, hiring a new IGA intern, and coordinating with the Menards Center for an event for Senate.

On this I highly recommend everyone marks their calendars for February 8th 5-7pm. Next week we will be hosting Alex Morey, a guest speaker from fire who will speak of Student Governments' roll in free speech on college campuses. At this event we will listen to a speaker, enjoy a free dinner, then go out into break out groups. This event is exclusively for Student Senate so I really hope to see you all there. Please register on Blugold Connect Plus so we know how much how much food to order.

I am still figuring out the best time to have IGA so please keep an eye on the group chat and your email,

I yield

Q: Can you come late to the event? A: Yes

Q: What time was it? A: 5-7pm

#### **Information Technologies Commission Director – Joseph Dokken**

Hello everyone,



I hope you all had a great break! I spent some quality time with family and turned my brain off for a while so that was nice. I am however looking forward and getting ready to tackle this semester! ITC has an exciting semester ahead of it with the goal of spending all funds on the initiatives budget line. I will keep y'all updated on that process.

As far as the weekly meeting, we will not be meeting this week. We still need to figure out a couple things with the meeting time, but we will be meeting next week tentatively from 11:30am-12:30pm on Tuesdays. My office hours will be held on Tuesday at 10am and on Thursday at 2pm.

I know what you're all thinking, the Vikings did in fact lose and I am indeed sad. The pixie dust did indeed run out as some would say...

Now that I don't have the Vikings to cheer on every week, I need a new signature sign off. Since golfing season will be here by the end of semester it's only fitting if I end by saying...

See you at the 19th hole

I yield

**Student Organization Commission Director – Brad Heap**

Good evening,

This week the Student Organization Commission will be meeting on Thursday, with the time either being at 2:00pm or 4:00pm, which is to be determined very soon based on the availability of commission members. SOC has big plans for this semester, so stay tuned as the semester continues to develop! Most pressing, SOC is coming up on the deadline for Student Organizations to apply for the Segregated Fee Funding opportunity. The deadline is on February 3rd, so if you or somebody you know is on the executive board of an organization and want to apply for up to \$2000 to use for the following fiscal year, make sure to apply soon on Blugold Connect +! I hope you all have an amazing spring semester, filled with success and joy, and as always, take care, brush ya hair, and I yield.

**Student Office of Sustainability Commission Director – Sydney McGuine**

Hello everyone and welcome back! I hope break was nice and relaxing for you all. Over the break I worked on our budget determining how much we have left in the GreenFund, attended a Transit Commission meeting, met with city council member Jeremy Gragert to see how the city and university might want to work together in the future, and met with Hazel to discuss semester plans and how the SSRC will look this semester. We also worked on hiring a new coordinator for our Communications and media which has not yet been filled. If any of you here are interested, it is a paid position, only 5-8 hours a week and I can send you the job description in the bylaws! Just shoot me an email or go to our BlugoldConnect+ page and apply there. We are trying to fill that position as soon as possible so that they can be at our first meeting of the semester. Speaking of the first meeting, we will be holding our first





meeting next week Wednesday from 5:30-6:30. The location is unknown as of now but as soon as we know we will send out that information. That is all for now, I yield.

**University Activities Commission Director – Zach Jacobson**

I am so happy to see all your faces again and I hope you had such an amazing break.

This week in UAC we had an application and hired our new late-night chair.

I also just wanted to remind everyone that as a senator you can serve your senate hours on any of the committees of UAC. We have films, late-night, concerts, and festivals and we would love to have your help and input on any of those committees. Please reach out to me or stop in during my office hours to ask any questions that you may have.

For events, we have Nope showing next weekend and the Winter Carnival the week of the 13th-17th. With the 502's concert being on the 16th Thursday. Buy your tickets online now! We also may be looking for volunteers so if you really have an itch to help let me know. But buying a ticket will still be the only way to guarantee admission.

Please make sure to follow the UAC Instagram, Tik Tok, and Facebook to stay updated on what events are coming up!

I love seeing all of your faces, keep up all of the great work you do for all of the students here on campus, you are amazing and fantastic!

I yield.

**Academic Affairs Commission Director – Sahana Suresh**

Hi everyone! I hope you all had a well-deserved winter break and are back and ready for the spring semester! My winter break was pretty unforgettable. As many of you may or may not know, I studied abroad in Florence, Italy. It was one of the most life-changing and educational experiences I've had; if any of you have the chance, you should study abroad. Anyway, I'm very excited to be back with you all and get things started again with Academic Affairs. My biggest plan this semester is to work on BCDT with Stephanie Jameleske, Provost Kleine, and Mary Hoffman. I've already reached out to them about this last semester and during winter break. What I know at the moment is that they are doing a second review of the BCDT with the deans next week and once that is squared away in a few weeks they will be meeting with my commission to get the student perspective, and later this semester there will be a spending plan presented by Stephanie Jameleske and myself sometime in March. I'm excited to share that with all of you. If this is something that interests you, please talk to me after this meeting or join me at my commission meetings this semester. This semester my meetings will be Wednesdays from 2-3pm in Pine Room. My other big project is implementing mental health days; it's a project I began last semester in terms of research but will be putting in the work this semester to make it happen. With that being said, if any of you have academic concerns or any projects you'd like to work on with my commission please let me know; I'd be so happy to work with all of you. That is all I have this week. Wishing you all a great first week of classes. I yield.

**REPORT: Special**

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**Mascot Coordinator – Kyle May**

Hello everybody. If you haven't heard this phrase enough, I hope you all had a good winter break! I know Blu and I did. Blu and I attended the Men's Basketball Youth game vs. UWSP where Blu cheered our team on and entertained the kids and took photos with families (with a surprise photo with Chancellor Jim). Our (satellite campus?) Barron County received their FIRST Blu the Blugold costume, and such grows Blu's power and magnificence. Additionally, Blu has BRAND NEW SHOES. Now the part of the report we've all been waiting for. An update on the Plushies. At the current moment, we have received NO NEW INFORMATION from the vendor. We have contacted the vendor as well as others, and are doing the best we can to work with the approved budget. If you have any questions, or other ideas, please let me know!

Q: What is the likelihood of getting the plushies this semester? A: At the moment it is postponed indefinitely.

**Unfinished Business**

Bill or Resolution	Title	Status	Vote Method
	66-B-9, Amending Chapter III, Section 3, Part 10 , Line Item 12	Passed	Placard 23-0-2

**Misc. Notes:**

**Introduction, Sen. Strojinc:**

- We were unable to do the Fall Community Walkthrough due to turkey hunting
- This would change the bylaws so the IGA Commission can also do the Walkthrough in spring
- Added language to let future sessions know that it normally happens in the Fall semester
- Q: Why not do it without police? A: We walk with them so they can see the problems that students face, as well as with other city officials.
- Q: Have you or IGA as a commission identified the other parties on if they would be able to do the walkthrough this spring? A: (from Dir. Kelly) Not yet.

**Speaker Sentiments:**

- Will be voting up, as an IGA member, will give the needed flexibility for the commission to function
- Will be voting up, the IGA Commission is at the mercy of local politics, so it is helpful to have flexibility
- Will be voting up, flexibility is always good for our commissions and directors when working with many parties
- Would vote up if he could, but it is good to work flexibility into the bylaws, as it allows us to continue to do our work when there are extenuating circumstances
- **AMENDMENTS:**

**New Business**

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**Personnel Matters**

Appointed or Resigned (A/R)	Name(s)	Entity(ies)
Resigned	Sen. Renslo	Off Campus Senator
Resigned	Sen. Alix	Off Campus Senator

**Misc. Notes**

**Announcements**

Person	Topic
Dir. Kelly	The Menard Center talk is a curated event, please come! Q: Will it be at the Menard Center? A: No, it will be on the Blugold Connect invite, in Davies
Sen. Lehner	Was cool to run into Chancellor Jim at the State of the State address! The referendum discussed last semester passed, and will be on the ballot this April election, please vote and encourage your friends to as well. Q: The referendum is non-binding, but advisory, correct? A: Yes
VP Farmer	Want to remind you all that the Water Street and Mall bus routes have been extended, are available later in the evenings and on weekends, the hours are available on the website, so please spread the word! The usage of the routes will be assessed to ensure that they are being utilized, otherwise the times will be decreased.
Sen. Ong	To elaborate on the International Student Association event, there will be a fashion show contest and prizes, as well as a crafting session, the RSVP Link is in the Blugold Connect plus event!
Pres. Gaitan	On the lobbying trip, will be on Feb. 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 10-4 in Madison, WI. Every UW School will be represented there, has not happened in a long time. This is open to anyone in the body, there are 3 main topics, including more mental health funding, which Gov. Evers has mentioned in his address, and funding pay plan requests. You would not go into lobbying unprepared and would



learn about these topics before going. This is your time to be vocal and grow your own confidence/speaking skills and represent our campus. This is towards the end of the month, so please come up at the end of the meeting today so we have an accurate count of interest.

Q: What was the date? A: Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 am-4pm, but we will arrive early to settle in and get oriented. Followup: can you elaborate on the tuition/pay plan? A: Can elaborate after the meeting, as it is lengthy information.

Q: Since it is on a Wednesday, will we be excused from class? A: It would be an acceptable request for an academic release (Dean Heiselman)

Q: Would we be able to return that night? A: Yes, from 10-2, will be meeting with Democrat and Republican leaders and their team, and after will be meeting with our local representatives.

Vacancy is open! Feb 17<sup>th</sup> is the closing date. If you have someone who would be interested, please send it their way! There are new people on campus in the second semester, no harm to reaching out.

Q: Is the vacancy just senator vacancies? A: They are at-large seats available—on or off-campus does not matter.

**Misc. Notes:**

**Adjournment**

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Meeting adjourned at 6:44 PM.

**Minutes submitted by Anakah Denison, Senate Personnel Director**