



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 5, 2022**  
**PRESIDENT GAITÁN**  
**VICE PRESIDENT FARMER**

A regular meeting of the 66th Session of the Student Senate was called to order at 6:02 PM on Monday, December 5, 2022, in the Dakota Ballroom 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 – 12/05/2022**

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#### **Executive Board**

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



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### On-Campus Senators

Name	Status
Samantha Consiglio	P
Solveig Dei	P
Austin Lallak	P
Benjamin Myszka	P
Brenna Strojinc	P
Elianna Zimmerman	P

### Off-Campus Senators

Name	Status
Josh Holness	P
Jake Hicks	E
Breanna Renslo	P
Meghan Wiercinski	P
Twyla Alix	P

### At-Large Senators

Name	Status
Livvy Argo	U
Mei Bean	P
Avery De Ruyter	P
Patrick Hill	P
Ben Hurley	P



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<b>Taylor Kaplan</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Matthew Lehner</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Katie Myszk</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Vivian Ong</b>	<b>U</b>
<b>Allie Russel</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Allana Valiente</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Tristan Weasler</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Rebecca Yoshino</b>	<b>E</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>E</b>

**Presentation**

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<b>Entity; Topic</b> <b>NCUR 2023, Mary Hoffman</b>	<b>Questions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: When will info about volunteering be sent out? A: Call for volunteers will come out in February, talk to your professors about it as well</li> <li>• Q: Is there any other way for students to get access to the fair, or only volunteers and presenters? A: Also observers (paid) usually the second and third authors, they can't eat/park on campus, and other classes are putting on other niceities for volunteers, rooms and food etc. Followup: are the other events eg Quickpitch open to students? A: Only for participants, numbers are limited</li> <li>• Q: Can volunteers only access those events by viewing? A: Yes</li> <li>• Q: So students with meal plans will have to go to Hilltop, are there plans to supplement for those days? A: Yes</li> </ul>
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- Mary Hoffman, Provosts Office
- National Conference of Undergraduate Research
- Have been working on this for 2 years, 128 days away

- Will have 4,000 people here
- It is a very large initiative that has been in the works
- 21 different committees involved along with many more coordinators, directors, etc.
- People will come to campus to present their research
- If you want to know more, follow [uwec.edu/ncur/](http://uwec.edu/ncur/)
- As a student, if you have questions about how this will affect student life, search NCUR 2023 on the website, FAQs can be found there
- Lots of sessions, different from past NCUR sessions, the first time it has been in person in 2 years, 2021-22 was online
- Lots of collaborative and artistic sessions, lots of sub-events, encouraging 2-year engagement
- Sustainability and creative arts highlights, unique to UWEC
- Also FAN sessions, faculty presentations
- Sustainability sessions, plenary speakers (4)
- May have a LaCrosse demonstration
- Closing speaker is a UWEC Rhodes scholar
- It happens in April, Thursday Friday Saturday, as well as a Wednesday session
- Orgs will be involved for an org fair, Mayo will be involved in a behind-the-scenes about how operations happen
- Crossing the Bridge, similar to Jazz Fest/Jazz Crawl
- Pre-conferences, WiSys Quickpitch, only happening in April this year, Mayo conference, and department open houses
- Big networking fair, transfers, future, and more
- What does this mean for students? 3 ways to be involved
- Be a presenter (submitted abstracts) the deadline was extended to Wednesday, 11pm (central time)
- Oral, performance, poster session, creative project, participate in special sessions
- Want many other students to participate as a volunteer, hundreds of opportunities, need over 1000 volunteers
- Have access to almost every element of the conference—murals, posters, oral etc. The Saturday session will be available
- Depending on how many hours you work, you can get service learning
- Encourage everyone to volunteer, even presenters
- Will not have organized classes those days, want students to spend time volunteering and presenting
- Have a few CJ classes recruiting volunteers and training to know what is expected, mor info available in the Spring
- Other way to participate is join campus games, library after dark, crossing the bridge, other fun events
- Will be sharing campus with up to 4,000 guests
- Food: during those days, there will be food lines for guests in Marketplace and Hibbard (not available for non-presenting students)
- There will be food trucks on some days, open to everyone



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- Einstein's open to anyone, upper campus dining will not change at all
- Parking: lots of people will need to park, conference staff, UWEC staff, presenters, volunteers, vendors, busses
- Parking will be limited to people on that list—plan to park in neighborhoods
- Happy to answer any questions, strongly encourage people to volunteer and apply

### Open Forum

Entity; Topic	Questions
Scout Feldman, Kyrstin Fell; 66-R-7	

#### Misc. Notes:

- Want to speak in favor of 66-R-7
- This referendum would give voters to voice their opinions on abortion
- This only raises the question for people to make the choice
- It is non binding, no foul for implementation
- Asking for Student Senate leaders to listen

Entity; Topic	Questions
Judy Gatland; 66-R-7	Q: Can reproductive freedom be legislated at the county level, or does it have to go through the State level? A: Has to go through state Q: Did this question originate at the county or student level? A: This is a larger societal question

- Represents district 14 on county board
- Want to bring before the board as a non-binding advisory
- Difference between binding and nonbinding is non cannot be enforced by law, just bringing the publics voice to the governor
- A binding referendum, which we don't have, has to be implemented by law
- The proposal is a draft, submitted to court council today, then has to be admitted to the board
- Important to have students' support on it
- This law was implemented in 1849
- LaCrosse and Vernon County will also have this on their referendums

### Approval of Meeting Minutes from 11/28/22

Meeting minutes approved unanimously.

### REPORT: President – Rossellin Gaitán



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I am sorry that I am not with you all today, but I have found myself with a nasty ear infection that has been extremely debilitating and am taking some time to get better! Last week was busy from meetings to schoolwork. I hope you all have a fantastic Monday and take care of your bodies!

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

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Good evening everyone!

This past week was a moderately slow one, in which I continued to introduce myself and meet with folks across campus! My week also included sitting in on the University Auxiliary Budget Review with Director Johnson, as well as a few meetings and check-ins before heading out Thursday evening for a swim meet in Rochester.

If you had contacted me or inquired about anything while I was away, I apologize, but I am still trying to catch up on a few things, so don't hesitate to reach out again, otherwise you can plan on hearing back from me soon!

Thank you all, and I look forward to seeing you all again this weekend at the retreat and holiday party!

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

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Hi all, I hope you had a restful almost-last weekend of Fall semester!

Last week I started prepping for some of next semester's initiatives, attended the non-allocables presentations for Finance, and attended to end of the semester housekeeping logistics. This week I am looking forward to the Senate Retreat and Holiday party—I hope to see all of you there! Of course, if you will NOT be attending, please make sure the Outlook invite reflects that and let me know.

I would also like to remind everyone to please be respectful of the Student Org Complex space and the other students and groups that use it. We have received complaints about excessive noise and foul language from people, and out of both common courtesy and respect for Senate as a professional organization, I would ask you to please be aware of the volume and nature of the conversations you are having—some things are better kept in the group chat. This space also houses professional offices and is a workspace for other students and student employees. Remember that you are not just representing yourself in this public space, but also UWEC to prospective students that pass by for tours and Student Senate to the rest of the student body.

Lastly, just a reminder that the Senate Retreat is happening this weekend, starting at 8 for senators who did not attend the first one—this is **REQUIRED**, and I will be sending out the agenda tonight. Breakfast is provided! Please wear business casual attire as well. We will also be having an optional white elephant gift exchange during the Holiday Party at 12:30—lunch is also provided, and everyone is invited! If you're



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looking for gift ideas, the 1-3-5\$ section at Target is a great option, and there are plenty of eccentric items at low prices at Midwest Home Supply. They also occasionally have free items in the foyer there! If you don't want to spend money, I can also recommend homemade items like origami, knick knacks from BOB or job fairs, or candy poached from the directors' desks.

As always, congrats to Dir. Suresh for once again turning in her report first, at 1 pm on Sunday! Followed by Coordinator May in a close second.

That is all I have, and I yield.

Q: What is a white elephant? A: A low-pressure, casual gift exchange where the gifts are often nonsensical and lighthearted.

Q: Which group chat are you referring to? A: A metaphorical group chat, i.e. keep some things private

Q: What is the cost limit? A: \$10 hard limit, \$5 soft limit

Q: Are there gifts available for people who cannot buy one? A: I don't have a stockpile, but if you want to participate and finances are an issue, if you feel comfortable please reach out—additionally, you can make gifts that don't need to be bought.

### REPORTS: Board of Directors

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#### Communication Commission Director – Ivan San

Howdy all, I hope you had a nice weekend & are ready for another successful week! Last week in Comms, we, as usual, hosted Motivation Monday! We posted the newest issue of Blu's Bulletin and began working on the next. I collected ideas & planned out more winterim projects for the spring semester. This week, I'll be going to the University Centers meeting to inquire about senate table tents & updating the entrance of the organizations complex (Davies 220). We'll also be making a Senate Tik Tok this week and planning the first project for it (idea by President Gaitan, hint look up wyatteiden on Tik Tok). I hope everyone has a great week & hope to see you & your own mug, next week during our last Motivation Monday of fall semester!

Q: What are we supposed to look up? A: wyatteiden

#### Equity in Student Matters Senate Director – Maddie Blong

No report

#### Finance Commission Director – Ben Johnson

Hello everyone, I hope your week is off to a good start. This past week finance commission had an important meeting, we heard from 8 non allocable segregated fee organizations such as health services, and counseling services. All information from those can be found in the minutes which will be sent out with the agenda tomorrow. This coming Wednesday the commission will be voting on this seg fees and



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then it will be coming to senate so expect to see something in the coming week. I attended the Rochester Swim and Dive invite and I would like to say great job to all the swimmers and divers. I also went to the Viking – Jets game yesterday so SKOL.

I yield

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

Hello!

This week IGA is still going strong with our initiatives and LPS goals! Some of the goal we are working on includes, helping out the campus food pantry, promoting Harry Hartle, a post election survey, and working with hilltop management to improve working conditions and students dining experience.

Director San and I have also been in contact with the Menards Center to bring a guest speaker! The guest speaker will be visiting campus February 22 from 5-7pm. We will be hosting Alex Morey a speaker from FIRE which is an organization that informs citizens on their constitutional rights. More information on our speaker will come soon.

and I yield.

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

Hello everyone,

I am glad to see everyone's beautiful faces yet again. The creative juices aren't flowing today so don't expect to laugh too hard from my report tonight. I just have a few things to announce.

Mobile Credentials Email sign up information has been sent out. If you haven't already sign up for that. I am already hearing great things from students about it!

The Annual Student Tech survey will be sent out at 8am tomorrow morning (12/6). This will be going out weekly until the semester is over.

The initiative form is being sent out tomorrow at 8am (12/6), be on the lookout for that as well.

With all of this being addressed, please let me know if you have any questions.

SKOL!!!

And with that I yield.

### **Student Organization Commission Director – Brad Heap**

Good evening,





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This week the Student Organization Commission held another presentation for an application to the SOC Special Allocation Fund, and we finalized plans for the Blugold Connect + Demo. All of the funds are almost already gone, so if you are on the exec board of a student organization and you are looking for funding, make sure you apply soon! The Blugold Connect + workshop is set for this Thursday, 12/8 from 3:00pm-4:00pm in the Cargill Technology Lab in Schneider Hall. Again, for any of you who are on a Student Org exec board or know somebody on an exec board, make sure to sign up for the workshop soon! Free pizza will be provided, (rejoice, it is not going to be Sodexo either), and it will be a great event where students and staff can learn about Blugold Connect + and all of its capabilities. Finally, look out for this week's episode of the Watermelon Seeds podcast, hosted by Director Dokken and Senator Zimmerman, as it consists of a very special guest, myself, and Director San is also on the episode too. In short, I hope you all continue to succeed in your personal endeavors this week, and as always, take care, brush ya hair.

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

Hello everyone! Last week we voted on some prizes for surveys on food accessibility and learning what students want to know about sustainability for the upcoming training. We also voted on the funding for some supplies for hydroponics. Speaking of hydroponics, Hazel and I will be conducting interviews by the end of this week, so if you are interested in the intern position go ahead and apply by Thursday night at the latest. The application is on BlugoldConnect+ and to make it even easier you can go down to the Hub later and scan the QR code on the poster on the doors. This week we will be voting on two more proposals introduced last week and we hope to see you all there! Also, tonight and tomorrow is the BANFF Centre Mountain film festival at the Pablo. It is at 7 pm and tickets are 5 dollars for students. If you go onto our Instagram after this meeting and click on the link it will take you to the place to buy tickets. The Instagram is sustain\_uwec. That is all I have for tonight, good luck with the rest of your weeks, we are almost to break! I yield.

### **University Activities Commission Director – Zach Jacobson**

Good evening everyone!

I am still adjusting to my role and had a great meeting with past UAC director Brett Farmer last week to go over all transition materials.

I had a check in with Vice President Farmer and Ivan from Coms to talk about UAC and senate doing some collab for marketing. We will now be putting the senate logo on UAC posters.

UAC was back up and running as normal and I am working to attend meetings and check ins as I can when not in class.

UAC had an amazing Friendly Feud event last Wednesday with around 50 attendees. We are looking forward to more Friendly Feud in the future! We are looking to do more game shows, if you have any ideas, please let me know.



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For upcoming events, UAC is finishing up the semester with bingo in Hilltop tomorrow at 8pm.

If any of you or any friends are at all interested in UAC please let me know. We would love all the feedback and input to put on the best possible events here on campus. Reminder, senators can serve on a UAC committee as well!

For all event information and updates, be sure to follow UAC on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok and reach out to me if you have any questions! I hope to see you all at UAC events very soon, I love seeing all your faces, keep up the amazing work you all do, I yield.

### **Academic Affairs Commission Director – Sahana Suresh**

Hey all,

Hope you all had a fun weekend and are ready for another great week ahead. Last week was a pretty productive week in Academic Affairs. I participated in UAC's Friendly Feud and my team; Academic SLAYffairs was one of the winning teams; an amazing moment. My favorite part of Friendly Feud was Director Jacobson as Steve Harvey; that should be his full-time job. Then on Thursday morning, I had the Counseling Services Advisory Board meeting where we discussed the new online platform Mantra, which is super successful we were also updated that all the counselors are back and they should be able to see more students very soon and it should be even smoother next semester because they are having a few of their counselors work 4 days a week. Counseling services are a great resource we have on campus and if there is anything you guys would like to see implemented or improved, please bring it to either myself or Senator B. Myszka so we can bring it up in our future meetings. Then, I of course had my commission meeting where we finalized the open forum that is happening this Thursday. Then I ended my week by having a wonderful conversation with Provost Kleine. She is always great to talk to. Like I said last week, I had a conversation with her about implementing mental health days to the academic calendar and it is a possibility; as I have more discussions with her and some of the other Deans open campus; I'll keep you updated. But I'm so happy that it may happen because we all deserve some mental breaks during the semester.

But, in terms of what I have on the schedule this week. I'll be attending the Academic Policies Committee on Tuesday. Then this Thursday my commission meeting will actually be my open forum. As I've mentioned previously the open forum format will be different than in the past, a more roundtable format. I'm planning on dividing it by major and I'm starting with HSS majors since they're all tight-knit, and I'll have a good response. The open forum will be this Thursday from 2-3 in the HSS Lounge; there will be candy there. If you know anyone who has classes in HSS or is yourself please attend; we want you to complain, and we'll make those changes happen.

That is all the announcements I have this week; sorry it was super long, and I yield.

Q: If the number of days increase, do they get more counselors? A: are hoping to hire more in the future



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Q: what are the metrics on Mantra? A: got 25 hits on day 1, 50 when it was released on Canvas, and will check it out herself.

### REPORT: Special

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#### Mascot Coordinator – Kyle May

Hello everyone, here's what Blu and I have been up to recently. We had another successful Blugold Friday. This Saturday Blu made an appearance at Geekcon with Senator Consiglio and took many photos with various vendors and events. Tonight is the second look at the bill look forward to answer any questions you might have and I yield!

#### Unfinished Business

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Bill or Resolution	Title	Status	Vote Method
	66-B-8 , Student Mascot Initiative: Student Mascot CUSTOM PLUSH	Passed	Placard, 29-0-1

#### Misc. Notes:

##### Introduction, Person:

- Reintroduction
- Last year, 7,700 dollars were allocated to a new suit, but 5k was unused, as there was rollover from last years budget
- Want to use extra funds generated by this to improve the costumes and merch
- Want to bring the mascot to students in a new way
- Can connect to current and prospective students
- Q: do you have a plan on where to store these plushies? A: Probably the Blu closet

#### Speaker Sentiments:

- Voting in favor, a great way to soften Blu's image, they are a kind and loving bird
- Good way to get the mascot out there
- Both parents and students will love it
- Good use of money, reusing what was already adjusted for
- Isn't arbitrary request, focused effort to engage student and a way to try something new, mascot related sales haven't happened in about 10 years, other universities often have them available in their bookstores
- We would not be restricted to this particular form
- Will vote in favor, excited to see where this is going
- Will vote in favor, think it is important to have for/by students initiatives and to have something that can represent the school that will not be too expensive
- **AMENDMENTS:**



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- Move to Amend: after line 26, include “WHEREAS, in the event that the physical \$250 prototype is NOT up to the Coordinators satisfaction or standard after fine tuning, the process with that company will cease; and”
  - Speaker’s List:
  - Want to have it in writing that we are not bound to this company
  - Passes 29-0-1

### New Business

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Bill or Resolution	Title	Status	Vote Method
	<b>66-R-7 , Calling On The Eau Claire County Board To Add A Non-Binding Referendum Question To The April 2023 General Election Ballot Regarding Wisconsin’s 1849 Abortion Law</b>	<b>Failed</b>	<b>Placard, 14-15-0 (tie broken by VP Farmer)</b>

### Misc. Notes:

#### Introduction, Person:

- Sen. Lehner
- Good evening, calling on the county board to add a non-binding referendum
- Abortion and reproductive rights have become a polarizing topic
- This document is not about if you are for or against abortion, just about if the county should put this on the referendum
- This is an issue that profoundly affects students
- 44% of young people consider abortion to be their top issue, beats out inflation twice over
- A large portion of students also report sexual assault
- The law was passed in 1849, before women could even vote
- The university makes up about 10% of the population, but less than half votes, less in April
- Want to represent the students who spoke today
- Prove that we have what it takes to come to politicians in power
- Want to show that we believe in democracy and choice
- Q: What work has been done to get this passed through City Council? A: is working with Judy Gatland from earlier, this is not what will be submitted to the county, that was submitted as of today, needs to be reviewed by legal, then the county votes (process is in the resolution), Followup: if this is passed, what will be done after? A: Lines 33-37, upon passage, this would be passed to EC county board, specifically those who represent student majority districts like Water Street District, District 18 (upper campus), Third Ward (lower campus), and Metro Crossing and Priory and Haymarket. This would be passed to them to let them know we support it

- Q: Was the IGA commission or Jake Wrasse consulted on this legislation? A: Yes, a copy was transmitted to both, was brought forward in VPs meeting with Jake Wrasse, there was apprehension around it because it is a controversial topic due to the nature of politics and politicism of abortion, has talked with Dir. Kelly about it, she said she does not support it, but the body has considered political issues in the past, believes that sets precedence. Has consulted with people, especially about non-binding resolutions, not about for-against abortions, wants to be bold around it, many people see this a a pertinent issue Followup: was the unease from Jake Wrasse or other admin? A: both, general unease but not an outright condemnation
- **Motion to extend Q and A by 10 minutes, passes 29-0-1, placard**
- Q: Resolution says that there is not a lot of turnout in April, so why not wait for a better election? A: statistically, voter turnout is lower in April because there is less attention. We have a supreme court election this April—instead of waiting until 2024 general election is it gives people a reason to come out and vote, people vote for many reasons, the more the better, local government tends to have more impact in people's lives, and especially with this issue, can bring people out
- Q: Could you say what political issue was brought up in previous session? A: 66-R-26, came out of IGA, condemned a bill from the State, it regarded free speech liability and professors
  - More information from Dir. Kelly—the previous legislation cited UW System directly, which is why we got involved, it would allow any faculty member to be sued.
- Q: Since the Senate represents the student body, has there been any work done to survey if students would be in support of this? A: Not students here specifically, but has the data on the concerns of our demographic overall
- Q: What was done to communicate with offices/commissions/departments who would be involved in this process? A: No specific work was done to conduct outreach, just on consultation, Uni depts., Chancellor's Office, this was done from own perspective to see this referendum on the ballot, especially after seeing high turnout this year, there were students who also came to open forum, which typically does not happen.
- Q: Should this be passed and the referendum be added, what are you plans to inform the student body and let them know that it is happening and is an important election? A: Similar to the EC Superintendent coming on the school referendum, would have county supervisors come to talk to this body. Followup: is there anything you are doing to let students know that this is a possibility and how to inform them how to voice their support individually and not through student senate? A: Because this is in its infancy, no work has been done yet, one approved, will encourage students to petition county supervisors, want to encourage them to go to the County Board as well.
- Q: You mentioned two other questions that were added, the clean water and marijuana referendum—can you speak to how those were added? A: So there was another legalization question on the ballot in 2018, so the q that was put forth this session is different. The 2018 one asked what level do voters support of legalization, the highest was full legalization, then medical, then none. Judy Gatland also introduced the legislation for this current question to gauge how people feel about it more bluntly. Student Senate was not in session then, and as far as he knows, there has never been a nonbinding
- **Motion to extend by 5 min, 24-5-1 placard**

- Q: If this doesn't pass, will you still continue this work? A: Yes, would love to have Senate's support, but personally will still work towards it
- Q: In line 19, it says it must be considered no later than the 20<sup>th</sup>, what happens if not considered by then? A: Don't know exactly, 70 days before a general election all petitions for referendum questions must be considered, could not go forward otherwise.

**Speaker Sentiments:**

- **Move to postpone indefinitely**—believe that taking action on this would be harmful to this body, we need a speaker's list on the motion, need simple majority, if it passes, it would be postponed indefinitely
  - Speaker's List:
  - This motion has not been used often—this poses a political question, after thinking over it the past week, doesn't think we should go forward with this, the precedent is not strong enough because it does not concern student affairs specifically, does not speak against it directly would also cause a harmful effect, but also feels that passing it would be harmful, which is why he is doing this
  - Will be voting down the postponing, feels it is a student issue, not asking for the body to take a position, just calling for representatives to give more voice as a whole, and by individuals, not a decision made by student senate
  - Will be voting down postponement, thinks it is very important, what we do is inherently political, turning down something like this does no good, we are voicing
  - All our decisions are political as a Senate, will vote down on the basis that there is no difference between political and apolitical,
  - Wants to echo statements of previous speakers, to say that this issue if voted on is a detriment to this body, people stand in line for hours to vote, is friends with the person who put forward this motion, but what else are we supposed to do as a body? Thinks it would be a detriment to vote in favor of this motion, because then we cannot consider sustainability issues
  - Will be voting down to suspend, within the bill, sees that it is relevant to members of the student body and people in this room, understands the sentiment, the idea that we should not be voting on political issues, voting on sustainability is political isn't it? We open with a land acknowledgement, thinks suspending would be unwise
  - Will be voting motion up—calling a law into question implies a political leaning—we would not call this into question if we were ok with the law. Also, sustainability and bodily autonomy are different issues, and need to be legislated differently
- **5 min Recess; 22-7-1 placard passes, Reconvene at 7:36**
- For the concern of political issues—just because this issue affects students does not make it fall under our purview. Also want to consider his position as the Parliamentarian—he does not bring this lightly, especially with a resolution like this, wants this body to maintain what it deserves regardless of extenuating circumstances, hope that you can consider
- We are more than legislation, we need to take more action before we pass this resolution,
- Agree with many people who have spoken before, seeing as we are representatives of this body, students should have been surveyed before, even if this is not longer discussed here, we can still encourage students to show up and engage in advocacy

- Want to echo sentiments of speakers from before the recess, does not agree with postponing indefinitely, just because we don't agree with it, wants to give people a chance to vote on it, will vote it down
- Want to commend all previous speakers for speaking regardless, wants to emphasize that this does not divide us and should not change how we view others. Thinks that there isn't enough data on the student body to decide if moving forward with this, even though we are only voting on the choice to have it on the ballot, it doesn't tell people what we intend, it does indicate a leaning, will be voting up this motion because there isn't enough data on our student body on if they would like this or not, if more data, could agree to vote on this
- Echoing previous speakers, will be voting up the motion to postpone, came in with mixed feelings, after listening to people, even though this doesn't specifically lean one way, bringing a law into question does lean one way. Especially because action will be taken regardless, it is in our best interest to vote it up
- It's not about our opinions; will be voting up, still has mixed feelings, but thinks we will have a negative consequence, whether it passes or doesn't more work should be done and still put our money where our mouth is, it is a hard topic to talk about, even so indirectly, the consequences would need to be considered.
- This may not be common knowledge, but as a brief background, resolutions are a tricky piece of legislation, because they state the stance of the UWEC student body, but they do not have binding action attached. They are typically used to add momentum to an existing project or initiative, especially those in the IGA Legislative Priorities Summary which is determined at the beginning of the year. This lends legitimacy to issues that students may be concerned about, and give them a platform to work on within the University. On the flip side, they are typically viewed as performative if there is not an existing body of work bolstering the official words. In past sessions, especially the 65th, the body discouraged passing resolutions without achievable, actionable items attached. Because the further action cited in this resolution is also non-binding, this may be an unintended consequence of passing such a resolution.
- Remember that your vote is your own, and it should represent what you think is best for the student body--don't vote just because. At junctures like this is where we address what we want to say with our resolutions which are nonbinding but official and public nonetheless.
- While I agree with the sentiment of the resolution in giving voters the ability to voice their opinion on protecting access to necessary healthcare, there is the unfortunate truth that this is a topic which has been unjustly politicized. Senate is bound to operate in a non-partisan manner, and voting on this kind of issue may call that into question with other bodies if we begin interacting with local governments in a manner that may be seen, truthfully or not, as partisan by calling for specific actions. It may ring a bell that we cannot unring. Apoliticism is not just an unstated tenant, it is a guideline we are bound to by our governing documents. The issue is not that the topic itself is political, but that any kind of action calling a law into question is in and of itself indicating a leaning.
- As far as Senate having voted on state legislature in the past, we voted to pass a resolution dissuading the state legislature from passing a bill that would revoke protection of campus employees from



lawsuits. This was brought to the body because it specifically concerned public UW campuses, included UWEC, and was an outlier in the type of legislation we pass.

- I appreciate all the discussion, but please be kind to each other and be mindful of your words.
  - Will be voting down, there was a resolution introduced last session concerning critical race theory, believes it sets precedent, thinks that a Senate that won't have these conversations in inadequate, and abortion is a huge student issue, is our due diligence to cover them, thinks it is important to have the choice, thinks that this also deserves to be fought for which is why these can be tricky, has specific goals as well, thinks we can always be working to include college students more
  - **Point of Information:** A lot of people have brought up that it is our duty to be apolitical, where in the bylaws does it say? **A:** because we are a State organization, we fall under state laws to be nonpartisan, all decisions are political, so nonpartisan is a better word—we cannot take a political stance one way or another, which is why teachers cannot promote politics one way or another, it's not a bylaws thing, it's a legal thing **Followup:** Do we have a written record of these laws? **A:** what are the laws that people are bringing nonpartisanship based on? **A:** in the bylaws, the specific section is on viewpoint neutrality ch1, section 5, subsection 1, that being said, there is a law precedent, also a lot of the precedent for us condemning laws has directly been pertaining to things happening at the university, which is why it has fallen under our purview in the past,
  - This is less an issue of leaning and more bringing it up so we can get a viewpoint, especially for our students with a developing mindset, this law in question is over 100 years old, thinks we should show our legislators that student's have a right to a voice and that we support their right to exercise those, doesn't think it has to do with a specific party one way or another, asking if this is something that we still stand by
  - Is asking them to ask the question, doesn't think that voting to postpone is fair because clearly people care and we should be able to share viewpoints, postponing indefinitely should not be an issue, should be able to ask the student body on issue instead of postponing and ask questions, will be voting down
  - Many speakers have said that they want to see data, so that means that we would not be able to see data at all, thinks that postponing means that we don't see it at all, this references a law passed in 1849, think that this just gives people another chance
  - Understands the time constraints, Doesn't think that the referendum shouldn't happen, but that this isn't the right way to go about it, this resolution, if doesn't pass means that we don't want it to be considered, action can still be taken, would be brought up next session
  - Can be brought up again this session, would just be a bit of an ordeal
  - To address some points brought up, this law in the federal case law says that we cannot consider partisan issue, thinks that it is nonpartisan, does not ask people to take a side
  - The deadline is Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, postponing would kill the resolution, this resolution could not be reconsidered until future years
  - Previous people have said that we should ask students for input
  - Will be voting the motion down, thinks it shows that we stand for students to have a voice



- On the specific bylaws, thinks it agrees with voting the motion down, if we can't stand up for issues we believe in, thinks we become yes-men and do nothing, thinks our point is to do this
- On the bigger issue of a political statement, what does it say if we indefinitely suspend this? What good does it do to do nothing, thinks that this is something that we can do right now, thinks it will be pushed back, it's about giving people the choice
- Thinks a lot of the points have already been covered, want to cover why people would vote this up, there are already implications, whatever decision we make, what does it say for us to decide to postpone, thinks the message we send is that we don't want input, thinks it should be considered again, thinks that someone has to say it, thinks future sessions will have to say it, thinks that focusing on postponing is inadequate
- Initially didn't realize the urgency of this, will be voting down, thinks that this is a proactive way to show support for students and for them to voice their opinions
- Voting this down doesn't prevent us from talking
- Point of information on the federal case law—illegal to discriminate in distributing funding—viewpoint neutrality specifically?
  - Speaking turn granted to gallery member: Maddie Kasper, Spectator Liaison, poli sci major, is researching free speech, Southworth was a student who had issues with activity week, but supreme court found it was not the case, thinks this case is specifically about funding and not bylaws
- **Motion for closure of debate-second 11-17-1, passes, placard**
- **Motion for secret ballot vote, 11-16-1, fails, placard**
  - **Motion to table—12-16-1, fails, placard**
- Wants to point out that regardless of opinions about tabling/postponing,
- Votes cast now, now reflect on the student body
- Wants to thank those who voted in favor of denying past motions, we have seen a lot of passion tonight, doesn't mean he doesn't like the debate, whether we agree or not, will be voting up in favor, the vote today is not for/against abortion, the vote is about choice and democracy, and adding our support to the county, on whether or not they should be able to vote at all
- Will be voting down, on basis of not enough data, wants to reflect the student body
- Will be voting up, not about being an enemy of choice, voting either way doesn't matter how we view other people, speaking to redundancy
- Feels the need to speak as a matter of procedure—the reason why he asks you to vote down is because of viewpoint neutrality, miscited the bylaws, that is on him—because we are state employees cannot be a part of political parties because we are paid, cannot put one view in front of another, questioning any laws indicates a political viewpoint, even accidentally or subtly. It's not about what the paper implies or tells, it can easily be taken as a partisan stance on an issue and as a body, it should not be done. Please vote it down, not because of its content, but because this is not something that our body should be or can be doing, the Chancellor also has to approve this, if he was hesitant before, he probably won't sign off on it now

- Will be voting down; while the topic itself should be nonpartisan, it has been taken on as partisan issues by political parties. On CRT was only used because UW System was cited and was drafted because it would have significantly affected the academic experience of students. Students would have been allowed to take a constitution class rather than an EDI class. As much as I want to see progress on this issue, through Senate is not the way to do it. It is not my putting paper on a desk, but by actually taking action on these issue; protest is not making a piece of paper, respectfully. We represent all students, not just those who agree with us
- Wants to note that by voting up we would be representing all students because all students can vote yes or no, doesn't think it's taking sides, thinks it is nonpartisan inherently, increasing access, also was a question on a ballot in the past—knows people who wanted to have that ballot question but didn't
- Is on the fence—on previous sentiments, wants to remind people that the student VP and Pres released a statement about Roe v Wade which could be construed as taking a stance
- Doesn't think that we should be afraid to put our opinions out on something, thinks more work should have been done, on the resolution and otherwise
- Will be voting down—because of innate bias, only one author, all of the uneasiness makes her question why we are letting one author determine so much. Thinks that this is not necessarily representative
- To address that posing a question does not indicate bias, but look at it hypothetically—what if someone came in proposing a referendum about asking if affirmative action should be repealed—would you think that is a blatant political statement?
- Thinks we should address time—there is a deadline. Surveying takes time, which we don't have, thinks they did extensive amounts of research in the student body, thinks in lieu of a survey, the research is enough
- This is the most thinking he's ever put into a Senate meeting—it is a difficult situation, and people may be unable to put aside political or religious affiliation, difficult to vote on it the way it is, better to document if we had students who wanted this, it might not be clear enough to get past bias, will be voting down
- Want to make a statement about bias, partisanism within the referendum and past ones, such as a hypothetical regarding affirmative action or the CRT bill last session. Will agree that bringing this up and asking for it to be put on a ballot, binding or not, thinks this is saying that this is an important issue, thinks it is similar to CRT because it impacts students of the University, this is not directly referenced, it is still a topic that has severe personal implications, thinks it is relevant to the student body, even if people don't want it, it is still relevant to people's personal lives, thinks that there is a bias, but not a partisan bias, because it affects everyone is a bipartisan issue
- Let's not strawman—do not attach moral or ethical assumptions to people based on what they say here for the good of the body and students. Be kind and cognizant with your words. Voting this down does NOT affect the action that can be taken outside.
- The reason I'm speaking here and voting is because taking any action can set an unfortunate precedent
- 
- I think that this work should still continue, I agree with it--and it will continue regardless of what we do here.

- What we say now does not stop any action from happening--you are all free to help with advocating for this question outside the Senate floor, and is another way to get involved with your community
- It doesn't stop us from making a survey or asking for more data. Our purview is what happens on campus--we are a state university body--resolutions tell the community what we as a body have determined students want.
- Postponing does not mean it can't be brought up this session. The issue could be about anything, not just abortion, and this legislation would still be an issue
- Nonbinding does not mean without consequence--I want future sessions to be able to advocate for students as well, and a document like this calls that into question. Admin is here longer than we are--do your diligence to future students who have to live with the consequences of our actions.
- Apologies for saying apolitical if that is not the correct word.
- On the AA comparison, doesn't think they are equivalent, thinks that talking about an issue does not raise it directly
- On the time—lines 33,4,5; if it is passed, this would need to be distributed by the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting—in tabling for Friendly Feud, would want to table until next meeting to get the student input that people have expressed that they want.
- Yield to redundancy
- Not sure which way to lean, doesn't want to vote up something he is so unsure about, believes that there is a bias in it, due to the emotion involved, there is more than the choice to vote involved in this
- Nothing good comes from rushing—it's ok to wait to allow for the best thought-through document, nothing good has come from rushing, waiting is usually worth it, hundred percent for change and voice, but due to the uneasiness about the details, does not want to vote up. Even though he is voting down, thinks that this work is really important and thinks that data should not be extrapolated on the issue of data in order to vote on this.
- Also is on the fence, uneasiness comes from the lack of readthroughs and oversight, within and outside the university. This resolution is important, but having more eyes on it is very important, that shows the work we are willing to put into this university.
- Somewhat on the fence. If this was voted down, it would give the opportunity to get other authors involved
- If we don't pass tonight, would it be reintroduced before the deadline? What we provide to the board is on how we voted, and will that vote be provided tonight, and can we address it before the deadline. Everyone wants more data—the question is the data that people seem to want to see
- Many people seem to be on the fence, but we should be the mouthpiece for the body, and what good are we if we don't give voice to the body
- Motion to postpone definitely: will be brought up next week, the 12<sup>th</sup>, is only debatable on postponing it on the date, unlike previous motions,
  - Speakers list: this would address a lot of the concerns that people have brought up about editing, information and procedure—postponing by a week allows us to do that, allows us to vote on it with more certainty



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2022

PRESIDENT GAITÁN

VICE PRESIDENT FARMER

- **POI:** If any part of legislation is changed that is strictly editorial falls under unanimous consent, so it can be implemented without specific action during postponement, anything marked would have to be done on the floor.
- If postponed until next week, that would leave 8 days to make it through checking etc. his concern is that waiting would not allow it to be pushed through in order to be considered on the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and this action will be happening regardless outside of our purview.
- “I stand by my resolution—I yield”--author
- **POI:** If it does not pass, this question can not be brought back up again without hassle; someone on the winning side of the vote (in the negative) would have to motion to reconsider by the body which would go into an immediate vote, likely no debate—if this motion passes, those hoops would not have to be jumped through
- On the time worry—the meeting happens on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and the first person listed is the Chair of the Co. Board—should happen pretty immediately
- Will be voting in support to table for a week, give time to consult with people, especially IGA, who are supposed to deal with this.
- **Motion fails, 15-12-1**
- **Motion to close debate, unanimous in favor**
- **AMENDMENTS:**
- Move to amend—remove line 13, remove space between line and semicolon and decapitalize Marijuana
- Amendment—line 33, decapitalize Resolution

### Personnel Matters

Appointed or Resigned (A/R)	Name(s)	Entity(ies)
Resigned	Maddie Blong	ESM Director

### Misc. Notes

### Announcements

Person	Topic
Coord. May	Want to commend VP Farmer on running this meeting!
Dir. San	Tomorrow in Comms they are working on the answer 5 questions for money project—please provide questions!
Dir. Denison	The applications for the summer Galapagos internship at the Charles Darwin Research Station are open until Wednesday, December 21 <sup>st</sup> , so if



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	<p>you are an interested biology student, please reach out and I would be happy to provide more information! The costs of this internship are entirely covered by the University and donors, including a \$1,000 stipend for food—I have all application info and would be happy to talk about my experience.</p> <p>Also, if you want to participate in the White Elephant and finances are a concern, please reach out to me if you are comfortable and we can work something out 😊</p> <p>Thank you all for your work tonight!</p>
Sen. B Myszka	<p>We should celebrate that we spent so long on this and have diverse viewpoints and are not just an echo chamber, what we pass is better because of what we do here.</p>
VP Farmer	<p>ESM director application will open tomorrow, please send to anyone interested, previous directors have not had experience, will be sent out.</p> <p>With finals approaching, please be aware of your volume in the Student Org Complex.</p> <p>If you didn't learn something tonight, you weren't paying attention, there were parts that were disappointing, as the person with the most knowledge here, is happy that you debated, but we have done a lot of similar work in the past, please put aside what happened tonight. We have power here. We are at the top of the pole as far as admin listens to us. Please work collaboratively with them. Reach out and don't be afraid to talk with them. Thank you all for engaging and bearing with him as he chairs tonight.</p>

### Misc. Notes:

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 PM.



**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

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