



# Senate Meeting

**The 1965 Room**

02/13/2023

5:15 PM

## I. Call to Order

- a) Meeting called to order at 5:17 pm

## II. Roll Call

## III. Approval of the Minutes

- a) Motion: Lucas
- b) Seconded: Jasmine
- c) Discussion: No
- d) Minutes approved by voice vote

## IV. Approval of the Agenda

- a) Motion: Zea
- b) Seconded: Grace
- c) Discussion: No
- d) Agenda approved by voice vote

## V. Reports

- a) President: I have quite a few things. As you remember, two weeks ago Chancellor Alexander came in and presented us with his tuition differential. He came to the other presidents and I with an extended version. We asked more in-depth questions. I had a presidents' council meeting last week talking to talk about SGA constitution review. I also met with Jon Shelton



- and he asked if SGA and the UWGB professors union would collaborate on advocacy for more state funding. He will be coming in in two weeks.
- b) Vice President: I attended the student workers' rights and intergovernmental affairs committee meetings. I also submitted a travel authorization form for lobbying day this upcoming Wednesday.
  - c) Speaker of the Senate: First and foremost, I would like to welcome our guests. We have Karime and Monica today; we want to increase communication between campuses. Thanks to you all who showed up at Krash the Kress. I have not been doing much other than sitting in on constitutional review and I had a three-on-one with Adam.
  - d) RHAA: N/A
  - e) Parliamentarian: I have been discussing with Zach about constitutional review.
  - f) Advisors: N/A

## VI. Old Business

- a) Reviewing the information received from Chancellor Alexander
  - Advocacy strategies
  - Jasmine- On Friday, I went to another meeting that talked more about the differential tuition narrative that the Chancellor is proposing. We are talking about this again because we are hopefully trying to get a consensus vote to tell the Chancellor whether or not SGA approves or disapproves of it. This won't necessarily change whether it happens. This is just so they know if they have student support in this, so they can tell Regents if they have student support. Just to refresh, the differential tuition narrative is going to be an additional \$20 per



credit differential that will be attached to SIS and tuition. This is capped at 12 credits a semester. So, if you pay full tuition at 12 credits, but take 15, you will not be paying for those three extra credits. You will only be paying up to those 12 which is \$480 per year. Part of what else we talked about was a list that they had come up with of how much money they think will come out of this and where it would go. The Chancellor described it as student compensation. So even though we are paying, all the money is going directly into what will affect students. They have \$200,000 each year going to increasing student worker wages. They want students to have the opportunity to earn up to 20% more. We also need new faculty and more training desperately. I know that within my major of history, we have had a high turnover rate. We cannot afford new faculty and we cannot compete to pay those faculty. A majority of this money is going to rebranding the advising models from the advising we have now to advisors that are within your daily life. This includes career services. I do not know if any of you have had a really in-depth conversation about what career services does, but they want to switch to students being addressed rather than students having to go into the facility. They want to help guide students through their career path after college. Also, 10% will be used for financial aid. Of that 10%, \$303,000 a year will help fund the tuition promise. Another thing I was going to touch on is that there is this fear with raising tuition prices to a point where certain individuals will not be able to afford to come here any longer. Even with this included, we would still be in the top three most affordable. When you apply for FAFSA, you will get compensated



by them because they will be notified that there was a tuition increase. You may be paying the same out of pocket next year because, more often than not, they increase how much they will give students. On top of that, it opens the room for more students to get FAFSA. Students whose parents make too much money may become eligible to receive aid. Again, this would be \$480 extra per year. That's the bits I want to cover. If you guys have questions, I have the presentation and I will send it out to anyone who wants to look.

- Discussion/Q&A
  1. Abby- When you mentioned the history major struggling with faculty, it's the same with COMM. We just opened a new media hub, and the department wants to do all these hands-on classes to compete. We are not able to get these experiences because of a lack of faculty. So, I think this would be very beneficial and affect many majors.
  2. Katie – I think it's a good idea because if you look at it compared to the thousands you're spending already, \$400 isn't that much and it is going to help us have more resources while staying low cost.
  3. Erika- Is the additional tuition increase still a thing?
    - a. Jasmine B.- The Board of Regents must decide that so most of whether or not the tuition will be raised is out of the hands of anyone except the Board of Regents and the State for what they allocate to us. This is why there has been more effort in advocating for more state resources to be sent to the schools. I really cannot



answer whether the tuition will increase. It is a possibility, but again, the tuition differential is a different entity in and of itself.

4. Molly- The way that growth and economics work this must happen. This is a realistic step forward that is beneficial for students.
5. Alex- Professors' salaries are public information and most of them are severely underpaid. You could likely make more by putting in 40 hours a week at Festival Foods. I support paying people more and Jasmine's presentation has more concrete plans for student and staff wage increases through money received from this differential.
6. Zea- To make \$480 at \$12/hour, you would need to work 40 hours. This is about one month of working on campus. I think it is easy to get your money back and even easier if we are going to raise student wages.
7. Jasmine P- Will we see the money right away after we pay this or will it take a few years?
  - a. Jasmine B- From what I was told, I assumed that if this goes through it would be enacted, or at least planned to be enacted right away because there are already funds allocated to it. I would think that we could increase wages beginning in the Fall. In terms of student employment, there is a wage disparity. Some positions get paid \$14 and some get paid \$10. There is a lot of informal conversation, but that increase has to start somewhere. Even if you are at \$10 it would feel a lot better to start getting \$12 knowing that in a couple of years,



it could be even higher. I know that SGA specifically is talking about increasing soon. It has to start somewhere, right? So this kind of goes with the last point I brought up as well.

8. Ericka- The Engineering majors have an additional fee of \$700 a semester. I know that it was brought up that nursing and computer science also have additional charges. Is that still going to be a thing if we end up having this differential?
  - a. Jasmine- That is a separate cost and I think that will be continuing.
9. Harrison- I just wanted to note that it sounds like everyone is in favor which makes a lot of sense. I think what they want to spend this money on is stuff that we spend money on as our institution is historically underfunded as well as our State's overall educational system. I just wanted to make you all aware of Regent policy 32-2 which is a policy document from the UW System. This dictates student involvement in the differential equation initiatives and gives student governments quite a large amount of oversight in seeing how these processes play out. So regardless of whether or not you choose to go in favor of this, I think this is important to note. "Differences between proposals must describe any oversight, evaluation, or consultation process for the proposal format. This oversight, animation, or consultation process must be discussed with students if the proposal is presented to the Board to approve." So just know that you have the right, and you can ask the school for a contingency. For example, you can ask the school to present to you



every year how they're spending the money or have a student involved in any sort of discussion about that. I have a hard copy of the document here, but the Board of Regents website currently has a 404 error when you try to find it. Either way, this is the document, and I am happy to give that to anyone who is interested. There is a certain obligation the school has to involve students in this discussion.

- a. Alex- They did report on the handout that it would be reported to Student Government.
- b. Jasmine- It has to be.

10. Riley- I am skeptical because there will almost certainly be a tuition increase. \$480 a semester is still roughly a 7% increase in tuition for using a base rate. It is not that much on its own, but if there is a threat of a tuition increase, it makes me skeptical.

11. Jasmine- I totally get it. I understand that point, especially as someone who has to pay out of pocket. Paying tuition is scary to think about every semester, even if you know you have the money. I think that because this differential tuition is specifically going to the betterment of students, unlike tuition, which is designed for academics, I see it as more of a positive thing. I see it as improving the college experience.

12. Erika- I am skeptical because I personally and other engineering students have to pay an extra \$1,400 a year. I can guarantee myself next year's tuition and, with the price right now, next year's. One more semester after that and I



have no more money. With this one on top of another additional increase, I do not know if I can do that. I know this is going to be of good use and we are going to get more students from this, but I am not going to get more money. I will never qualify for FAFSA and I don't get scholarships. This is not going to benefit me.

13. Jasmine P- I am also skeptical. I am wondering if there is a way to have them come in and do a breakdown during a meeting once a semester. The fact that the chancellor was iffy about numbers was odd to me.

14. Ingrid- The cost of everything is rising and UWGB has kept things mellow for us. Do they anticipate raising the \$20 within a certain number of years?

a. Jasmine B.- No, they chose this number because it seemed sustainable. This could have been much more expensive but they were trying to get the lowest number possible while keeping it sustainable for years to come.

15. Monica- I am the president at the UWGB Sheboygan campus. I personally am skeptical, especially for our location campuses. I do not know if you all are aware, but our tuition will be increasing to UWGB tuition. For a lot of our students, the reason they come here is for the cheap tuition they can receive. I am also worried about how much of the money will be going to resources for location campuses.

16. Karime- I am the president of UWGB Manitowoc. I agree with Monica. I do see all of the benefits and I see both sides, but I am worried about the



location campuses. How much of this will go to resources for location campuses? I understand everyone's point of view but want you all to look at how affects other locations.

17. Zea- Monica did you say that branches are raising to the UWGB tuition rate?

a. Monica- Yes, Emilio met with the Chancellor and he said that their tuition would be raised to UWGB prices.

18. Grace- This is separate from the tuition increase and the Board is very quiet about that. The Chancellor will not know. I think the big thing is looking at it differently from the tuition increase because that is only under the control of the Board. This benefits me directly because my classes will have professors who are more involved.

19. Jasmine P- When will they be expecting to hire new employees?

a. Jasmine B- I would think you would see the most change at latest in Spring 2024, after they get the money. You have the right next semester to reach out and ask them to come back with their authentic version on how the money is being spent

20. Riley- I think it is relevant whether tuition will be separate. If tuition was going to up from one source, I think that would be worthy of consideration. Increasing tuition in two separate ways is unfair.

21. Zea- That is a 33% tuition increase for branch campuses.

a. Harrison- does that include the \$20?

b. Zea- Yes



22. Harrison- In my meeting with the Chancellor, I proposed that they have an introductory rate for the first two years. This is currently the case at the branch campuses and is what makes them so affordable. I proposed that students could have lower tuition for their 100 and 200 level courses. Based off of conversations on the Board of Regents, they are likely going to increase tuition between 2% and 5 %. This means that total tuition would increase at a rate between 13% and 9%. I want to reference this document again: “differential tuition presented must include a description of the student consultation process and outcome, as well as any official position taken by the students if one is provided. This includes the results of any surveys or solicitations of students.” One route that I would offer is to approve this contingent upon there not being an increase in UW system tuition as it would be unfair to hit students from two angles at once. I want to note that you can attach any number of clauses to the approval. The UW system did not want to release the numbers yet so there are no specific numbers in the narrative that Jasmine has. However, there are specific dollar amounts for what they want to spend money on. \$200,000 will go to student worker wages, \$300,000 will go to financial aid scholarships and the tuition promise. The total amount that they intend to collect is about \$3.5 million. So about half of that will go directly to students in the form of wages and financial aid and the rest will go to students in terms of advising faculty and other institutional benefits.



23. Logan- When you compared UWGB tuition to UW-Superior is that the current rate or future rate?
- a. Jasmine B.- future
  - b. Logan- We would still be 2<sup>nd</sup> on affordability in the state?
  - c. Harrison- There are about four schools that have comparable tuition within a couple \$100 of each other: UWGB, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Superior, and UW-Parkside. The differences tend to come from student fees. With this increase, all the others are doing increases at the same time, and most are comparable. I think UW-Stevens Point is doing a \$195 per semester flat rate which is about \$45 less than what UWGB is proposing here. In addition, UWSP is talking to State representatives about the possibility of tuition increases. The Republican caucus would consider another tuition freeze. This could potentially be a good thing for students and a bad thing for schools in the long term. The schools are under pressure to do this now before another freeze happens. Everywhere is getting more expensive.
24. Jasmine P.- Do you think it would be a good idea to add a clause that we will only support the differential if the UWS tuition does not go up?
- a. Jasmine B.- Yes
25. Erika- If we do not do the differential, could they use the increased tuition to cover what the differential was intended to?



- a. Jasmine- No. The differential is focused on student life and the value of education. This is mainly about sustainability and the education programs we have. This is about being able to be ahead of the rough patch incoming and specifically addressing a problem that couldn't be fixed with tuition alone.

26. Ingrid- When was the last time tuition was increased?

- a. Harrison- 2015

27. Harrison- I just want to clarify some points. Jasmine is right that tuition dollars are totally different from differential dollars. Tuition differentials stay at UWGB whereas tuition from every school gets collected by the UW System and doled out. Some schools get shafted in that process as some get less back from the state. I believe UWGB is one of those. Tuition money can only be spent on academics and things that support those academics. Everything else, cannot be funded by state dollars, only student fees. This differential is going to cover programs that do not get enough funding from the State. State support is divided right now as historically the UW system received 75% of instructional funding. It is now receiving less than 40%. University money disproportionately comes from student fees now. Basically, across the US locations, states reduce their funding to take more from their students. This is part of a larger national issue that pertains to easily accessible student loans and, therefore, schools that can charge as much as they want to because students will not stop coming. Degrees have become



necessary in our society, so this is a much bigger political question but good background context.

28. Riley- We are going in circles and I think this conversation should end.

29. Ryan- We are here to get some value promise fulfilled by the University and they are saying they cannot give us that without an increase. By doing this, I know that I am going to get more out of my time here. Since the last increase, the inflation rate has increased by 25% in the US. The figures I am hearing now are probably half that for both the differential and the tuition increase. Considering that, it is amazing that they were able to give us this. The reason they have to ask for money is because they try to charge an appropriate amount. I commend them for being transparent and not charging us excessive amounts.

All in favor of supporting this as an idea please raise your hands and the majority is in favor (informal vote)

b) Motion for a 5 minute recess

- Moved: Zea
- Seconded: Jasmine
- Motion passes by voice vote: reconvene at 6:11pm

## VII. New Business

a) Lobbying Day Information

- Harrison- There is a document in Canvas to sign up for lobbying day. If you are going, you need to fill out the nametag form by this Wednesday. Lobbying day starts at 10am which means leaving GB around 7am. There will be meetings for



both Democratic and Republican leadership. There is another document in Canvas that gives background on how the UW system gets money, how much it got historically, and how much it is currently getting. A big point on lobbying day is going to be tuition since the State has a literal pile of money that they are not suing. We are going to ask for some to be put towards funding the schools. Next Monday, either before or after the Exec meeting, I want to have a training session, so we can get practice before we go there.

1. Abby- Where do you sign up for nametags?
  - a. Harrison- On the excel sheet and I can send out a canvas notification.
2. Katie- Do we have a schedule?
  - a. Harrison- Yes, I'm working on it. Make sure you show up to your own representatives' meetings and bring friends.
3. Jasmine P.- Can I shadow someone?
  - a. Harrison- Yes
4. Ingrid- Is everyone driving together or separately?
  - a. Harrison- A group of people leaving around 2 and another around 4 or after dinner.
  - b. Alex- We will work to set up carpools.
5. Katie- Is school pride the dress code?
  - a. Harrison- wear what a student would wear, but make sure it looks somewhat nice.



6. Jasmine B.- If you do carpool and if you are the person driving, you need to get your driving authorization form in or you will get in trouble if something were to happen.
  7. Jasmine- How to explain to teachers that I will be missing class?
    - a. Harrison- Tell the teacher why you will be missing class. Your best bet may be to talk to the advisors and ask them to email your teachers.
    - b. Alex- Double check with professors and ask Adam to send an email to them if there are any concerns. Exec can also send an email from the exec account.
  8. Erika- What do I bring?
    - a. Katie- a folder
    - b. Zea- money for food
  9. Harrison- If you cannot go, please write a letter to your representative and have your friends do the same
- b) Parliamentary Procedure Training
- Tabled
- c) Resolution to Leave the University Student Government Association
- Discussion
    1. Zea- We do not want to leave, but with the problems we are having right now with the cohesion and communication between the campuses, the current structure is not working. There is a lot of the middleman and we are playing



telephone. This is not as efficient as it was intended to be. What we are thinking of doing is dissolving the USGA temporarily until we can figure out a better structure. One of the first steps is to bring all the Senates together. That is going to increase communication and cohesion as the branch campuses have a lot of the same problems we do. However, we don't know that because we do not receive communication from them. We want to be able to come together as a University and be able to discuss these problems as a whole rather than getting information from many conflicting sources.

2. Logan- Does the proposed change from leave to dissolve affect the second therefore be it resolved?
  - a. Zea- No.
3. Logan- What about the USGA president role?
  - a. Zea- Our plan is that all of these people are going to continue their informal roles as campus leadership. Everyone will still have the same roles in terms of campus leadership. However, the USGA president will be removed. When we restructure, we can talk about that more. We were thinking of creating a communications liaison to generate a report for the Chancellor so that he has one person to go to. That is just one solution, I am open to more.
4. Katie- This was something new last year and sometimes things just don't work out. I think it would be good to figure out a way to make it work.
5. Karime- This is new and we knew it wasn't going to work out the first time.



We probably set it up for failure. A lot of us noticed the issues and we want to plan to re-do the whole structure. We have been communicating with the other campuses. I would keep in mind that this is very new and there are going to be mistakes. This was a new body and there were some issues with the USGA president. The big key to getting this to work is communication. I am open to working with you guys to create a resolution to restructure. I want everyone to keep in mind that this is so new and we are going to make mistakes.

6. Riley- Overall, I don't think I voiced my opposition to the USGA, but I was not a big fan. My main issue was if you're treating 4 campuses on an equal level and then have one president, it is impossible to know the wants and needs of each campus. No one can do that. It is set up for failure in the way it currently is. You cannot expect someone on a volunteer basis to represent a school 90 mins away. I am not sure what the origin of the USGA was. I don't know if it was administration's idea?

- a. Jasmine B. - The chancellor asked SGA to come up with an idea that would streamline communication.

7. Riley- Admin wants to treat everything as on, but instead we have a mishmash of four campuses with one president who cannot be expected to represent everyone. I think this is the best way to fix it. The current system doesn't work and if it were to disappear right now everyone would get along better and the University would probably listen to us more because we would



not have confused communication. This was written overnight by one person, and I don't think we can fix this. This needs to be written with a conscious effort by all four campuses.

8. Jasmine B.- Last semester, Dr. King was supposed to be the advisor and he did not show up to a single meeting. I felt disrespected. They say they care about our input, but don't even show up. It is hard to equally do things within the Constitution. I believe that all the campuses should have steady food service, but I need to concentrate on UWGB. It is hard to collaborate without an advisor and it is hard to work on things that are affecting everyone. This is unorganized and we find ourselves getting upset with each other because of the lack of communication.
9. Zea- That was my reason for advocating for a full senate. They should be represented and right now they are not. Do not feel like you have to make a decision right away. I want this to be an ongoing discussion. We want everyone to come in with feedback and goals. This will be a group effort and I want to emphasize that.
10. Ingrid- Why was this created last year?
  - a. Jasmine B.- so the Chancellor did not have to speak to everyone.
11. Ingrid- This is all volunteer, this would be in addition to everything we are already doing. Are you bringing everyone together all at once so there is no need for separate Senate meetings?
  - a. Alex- We would dissolve the organization and call together a



constitutional convention with the other campuses to try and recreate this better.

b. Ingrid- Is that like a retreat?

c. Alex- Like a committee.

d. Ingrid- Would this happen during summertime?

e. Alex- This would happen during the next administration, so may-ish

12. Ingrid- It is possible to come together as all 4 campuses. In my experience, we merged six councils together for Girl Scouts. It is possible if we work together.

13. Adam- Is this dissolution first being shared in the UWGB senate?

a. Alex- Yes, this is the first Senate it is being brought before.

14. Harrison- I was drafted into doing this in 2020 and this group was built on myself, Karime, and Sierra Miller. We were advised by Mark Olkowski and we proposed this current constitution. We adopted it on short-term notice due to elections. I am not sure I agree with all the points in the document. Some of the campuses have engaged with success and some of them have not whether personal interest or structures of those campuses. USGA has been successful for some and not for others. I am sorry about that. Dr. King was not present, and Gail took over. The big question and suggestion is we should call a constitutional committee and discuss this to come up with a solution. We should do this before dissolving this.

d) Second reading of a resolution in support of transparency concerning distance education



course fees

- Discussion
  1. Logan- Would it be more effective to have that info displayed during the enrollment process rather than the payment?
    - a. Abbi- It is.
    - b. Ryan- The dollar amount is, the explanation is not.
  2. Zea- Shoutout to the academic affairs committee. Good work!! Strong piece of legislation
- Motion carries 7-0-4

e) Review of 2023 SGA Election Timeline and requirements

- February 27<sup>th</sup> – candidate election papers available and referendum questions due to the court at 4:00 pm; March 9<sup>th</sup> – the court approves or remands referendum questions; March 13<sup>th</sup> – election paper due; March 24<sup>th</sup> – referendum petitions due; March 27<sup>th</sup> – candidates certified; March 31<sup>st</sup> – students notified of referendum; April 12<sup>th</sup> – election begins at 9:00am; April 13<sup>th</sup> – election ends at 4:30pm and campaigning window ends; April 14<sup>th</sup> – election results announced.
- Discussion
  1. Riley- Are the relevant parties aware of the referendum?
    - a. Mollie- On my list to talk to Matt about.
  2. Zea- We did not know about these until last week.

VIII. Standing Committee Reports

a) Academic Affairs: Yield.



- b) Arts and Performance: Yield.
- c) Environmental Affairs: We had the first committee meeting to look at goals and met with our advisor.
- d) Equity and Diversity: Anyone who is interested please come to our meeting today after this.
- e) Intergovernmental Affairs: I met with Zea, Alex, Brendan, and Harrison.
- f) Recreation and Athletics: I attended the SAAC meeting last Monday.
- g) SUFAC: We wrote a proposal for some changes for SUFAC to formalize something within its relationship to SGA.
- h) Student Workers' Rights: We had a committee meeting last week and I am working on a survey about student worker satisfaction.
- i) Union and Dining: I have a meeting with Matt tomorrow. We will be talking about events and recontracting. We had our first committee meeting last week to talk about ideas.

IX. Announcements:

X. Adjournment:

- a) Moved by: Ryan
- b) Seconded: Lucas
- c) Discussion: no
- d) Motion carries by voice vote.