



Senate Meeting

2/14/22

5:15 PM

- I. Call to Order:
- II. Roll Call:
- III. Approval of the Minutes
 - a) Harrison: So, moved
 - b) Alex: Seconded
 - c) Approved
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - a) Molly: So moved
 - b) Harrison: Seconded
 - c) Approved
- V. Guest Speakers
 - a) Chancellor's remarks
 - Presentation:
 1. Up enrollment by 9%
 - a. Data from uw system that over the last 6 years we are up 25%
 - b. Only university that can make that claim
 - c. By percentage we are higher than Madison
 - d. Why is this important?
 - i. Helps us achieve our mission



- ii. 3rd largest university in the state
 - iii. There's all kinds of construction happening around campus
 1. Wood hall
 2. Center for financial investment, center for personal finance
 3. New comm labs
 4. Stem innovation building
 - iv. 96 million dollars to take down the library and build the new technology center
 - e. In 3-5 years, you're going to feel the impact of what is occurring
2. One of the only universities (outside of Madison) that is adding positions to the university
 - a. This growth is important because:
 - i. We are the third most diverse school in the uw system
 - ii. The students are an amazing mix of students who are living on campus, commuting, part time, and credit while still in high school earning credits
 3. We are watching very closely about what to do with covid protocols
 - a. There is a very steep decline in covid cases
 - b. This is a complex issue, and we are trying our best to control it within the university



- c. Making sure we are still providing the best experience possible for the students going here
- I know Dr. Merkel is next on the agenda and I hope he is able to answer the questions better than I might be able to
 - I also want to thank you for all of your work and helping the university move forward
 - Questions:
 1. Riley: If you are willing or able, can you explain your approach to covid?
 - a. We are trying to distinguish where you have to be in a place you are required to be vs. having an option to be
 - b. The second you walk off campus there are no covid rules
 - c. As the pandemic starts to decline, last summer we could remove the masks entirely, but we still have a population that is vulnerable, and we need to protect them and we want to make sure people are comfortable with taking masks off and it is a place students aren't forced to be
 - d. How do we maintain masks in classrooms (you signed up, you have an obligation to feel safe) vs. walking down the hallway or in the union (more public places)
 - e. We have to deal with public health, listen to student's faculty and staff, and the political environment (if uw systems makes a decision and different parts of the state can react as well)



b) COVID-19 questions for Dr. Brian Merkel, associate professor and chair of human biology

- Questions:

1. In monitoring the omicron situation and covid numbers, what trends in the data do you see and what do you see for the future or covid/university?

- a. One of the things that is really nice is that I think I bring good news at long last with an important caveat

- b. Some of the metrics that matter most:

- i. Community transmission: what is going on in the community? Is it being spread? That is an important criterion.

- ii. We look at the positivity rate out of all the tests that are conducted (how many come back positive) and the other one is the burden statistics, that is the number of cases per 100,000 people- that gives us an idea about what is happening in the environment

- iii. They are all going down!

- iv. We are still in the high category for that metric (100 in 100,000 is still high and 10 in 100,000 is considered low)

- v. To return to normality you want to be in the low category

- c. What is happening in other parts of the world is something we have to take into consideration as well

- i. Omicron is the latest example of this – spread very quickly



around the world

- ii. Potential silver lining in that – more people are becoming infected the one positive we can take from that is that the shields are building up around the world, the immunity levels are rising
 1. As immunity levels to build up, the ability of the virus is going to continue to change – you would expect to see fewer cases and see the positivity rating to go down as well
- d. Another variant could still emerge even with the lower numbers
 - i. We can prevent this through vaccinations
 - ii. If we build up the shields but another variant comes in that goes away
 - iii. Variants come from infections and the more infections the higher change of mutation
2. With all the variants is it possible to catch more than one at a time?
 - a. It is not unprecedented for there to be coinfections caused by viruses
 - i. The best example of this is influenza – multiple different strains
 - ii. Human strains do not do very well in bird environments and vice versa
 - iii. All 3 strains of influenza do very well in pigs so when pigs



become co infected or with three strains, like a genetic deck of cards they can swap and share them with each other –

reassortment

1. You can get a hybrid virus out of this, and it can cause a pandemic
- b. The corona virus is not segmented so you would not expect it to do what influenza can do
 - i. While it is possible to be coinfecting, it would be highly unlikely
- c. The least difficult challenge would be human behavior and following the protocols
 - i. You would have to be engaging in risky behavior, you would have to be engaging in this behavior at the right amount of time, and infection would have to happen at the exact same time
 1. Your immune system would respond quickly so if you get infected with one, it is highly unlikely that a second one would infect you
3. Do you think looking at posters, the current covid
 - a. The vaccine works terrifically- messenger RNA vaccines, they are safe
 - i. Provided that you are up to date
 - ii. There is a difference between fully vaccinated and up to date



1. Fully vaccinated should be three shots but the CDC doesn't define it that way
 2. We have concerns that people aren't getting their third shots because of this confusion
 3. Vaccine numbers are down because people aren't getting booster shots
 4. Could be explained by the use of confusing language by the CDC
- b. Antibodies are the protective elements of your immune systems (not T-Cells)
- i. Look at the history of vaccine- they don't give humans sterilization immunity
 1. They make the job more difficult for the virus to cause infection
 - ii. The risk of you having a severe outcome is greatly reduced because of the vaccine
4. Looking at university policy and CDC guidelines, do you think masking is effective, do you think quarantine guidelines are appropriate?
- a. Masks are incredibly effective; cloth masks are the least effective
 - i. It doesn't mean that just because the 95 masks are the best, it doesn't mean in every situation you need to have a 95 mask on



- ii. However, if you are in a crowded indoor space where spacing is more difficult, those are the kind of considerations to take into account when you want to wear a 95-style mask otherwise surgical masks are also effective
5. One thing I would say that I saw about natural immunity vs. vaccine immunity
- a. Both give you protection, I want to be clear about that, there is a level of protection you can get
 - b. The more severe infections give you the most robust protection going forward – if you were asymptomatic or not as hard hit, the protection is not as good
 - c. With vaccines, we know what you had, and we know the protection you have
 - i. It is not an infection
 - d. Vaccines are the clear path to take in the protection business
 - e. Vaccines also give you a broader protection against the virus instead of just the variant
 - f. Should I get the vaccine after being infected?
 - i. Talk to your health care worker absolutely but one of the things you will get if you are vaccinated is the magnitudes of protection you will get if you were infected and vaccinated
 - ii. You get the broader range of protection if you were



infect4ed and also vaccinated after the fact.

VI. Reports

a) President:

- Athletics/Athletic budget
- Court issues and staffing the court
- Please check your inbox for 2:1 times

b) Vice President:

- I was in one of those meetings with Ted, Harrison, and SUFAC about the rec and athletics budget
- I also got to meet with the president of BSU and LIT and she is going to reach out to her organizations to get more senators and justices to apply so we have a wider range of voices
- I hope everyone has a great valentine's day

c) Speaker of the Senate:

- I have a lot of stuff I have done; you'll see it in this agenda

d) RHAA:

e) Student Court:

- I have nothing to report, I yield

f) Advisor:

- I am meeting with student court later this week to work on election stuff

VII. New Business



a) Confirmations

- Abdul Ennin – Reserved Seat Senator: MESA

1. Harrison: I suspend the typical nomination process including the intro q and a and discussion and go directly to a roll call vote as the reserve seat senate for MESA

a. Alex: Seconded

b. Discussion:

i. No discussion

ii. Motion passes

c. Roll Call Vote:

i. Motion passes 9-0-1

b) Resolution in support of the implementation of a medical amnesty policy for the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay

- Discussion:

1. Riley: Just as I remember right, this is all substance correct?

a. Harrison: It is any substance

2. Harrison: I would like to share that we have been working on this for a while, if you have feedback please let us know either here or email Cora and her committee and we can refine it over the next two weeks

3. You should be able to see this in the email you got, and it should also be in canvas

c) Resolution to recognize the right and responsibility of SUFAC members to represent



student views of auxiliary services and budgets

- Discussion:

1. Harrison: I will share as the speaker who sits on senate:

- a. Basically, this is delegating a bit of our power to SUFAC but not giving it to them completely

- i. We still have the ability to review things

- b. SUFAC is allowed and encourages to express their opinions if they have one and we will follow up after the fact if necessary

- c. I would like to suspend the need for a second reading so please let me know if you understand it

2. Riley: I won't say whether if I am in favor or against since that is not my responsibility here, but I will give some information to show it is different from what we currently do

- a. SUFAC is semi-autonomous, Tristan and I are still appointed but anything passed by SUFAC is automatically approved by this body so in that sense we are autonomous

- b. It would expand the scope of that

- c. Our advisor has talked to us many times, SUFAC does not normally provide feedback on the requests themselves we are just supposed to apply our guidelines and see if it is a fair use of money requested

- d. SUFAC is restricted by a US supreme court decision in how it allocates seg fees



- i. Maintaining a viewpoint neutral stance towards the decisions that we make and we do that throughout and that makes sure we take requests at face value
3. Cora: For further clarification: does this allow you to make more personal decisions on whether you feel the funds are being allocated
 - a. It is the senate saying you can speak on our behalf a little bit more
 - b. For example: We can say we don't like something, and we automatically have the senate backing
4. Tristan: To add on to that equity is something we use when we look at all budgets- does each budget equally benefit each student
 - a. This is being brought on because SUFAC has the right to allocable budgets- we look at student org budgets next our guidelines and decide if it is an equitable budget
 - b. We do not deny them but are able to express whether we think it is equitable distribution of this seg fee
5. Harrison: I would clarify that the way it is worked on, is that SUFAC has the power to represent the students that they represent
 - a. SUFAC has power to express opinions on the budgets just as the budget (is there any gross misuse of the funds)
 - b. We are interpreting state laws, saying that we believe that as students and representatives of the student body, is that we are able to represent those opinions



- c. SUFAC can do something and we can follow it up and say we don't agree
 - d. IF SUFAC wants to investigate a budget, they are allowed to express that
 - e. 'Traditionally they haven't' so this is saying that it is okay for them to do that
6. Does everyone feel like they understand this?
7. Mark: As advisor, it is my role to play devil's advocate
- a. As I read the language, I look at this as giving the SUFAC authority to look at policies around campus that are part of operations funded by SUFAC
 - i. We don't like this policy, so we are going to hold the funds back
 - ii. This is more responsibility of the senate not SUFAC
 - iii. If they decided we don't like the posting policy or they don't like a speaker that GTP brings in, is that a SUFAC thing or a senate thing?
 - b. How much authority are we giving them? How much can this be taken advantage of if someone doesn't have the best intent
8. Riley: I would disagree, I think that it is saying that SUFAC And the senate can do the same thing and I don't think that is a bad thing
- a. It depends on what senate decides and we will obviously follow that



9. Ted: In Point 4, SUFAC can comment on student opinions on which SUF funds are spent (This would be GTP)
10. Jasmine: The first motion that is being put in place is to suspend the rules so we can vote on this tonight, the first vote is on if we should suspend the rules
11. Ted: We are doing this now with the hope of waiving the second reading so that this is the policy going into decision day
 - a. If we wanted to give SUFAC this ability to critique how the money is spent as well as the broader context, if we want to do this before decision day we have to suspend the rules
12. Mark: Why is this coming up the week of D-Day
 - a. Harrison: The SUFAC committee has in its last meeting, talked at length and at all meetings this semester about the athletics budget
 - b. The athletics budget is funded by SUF funds which means students contribute to this
 - c. Our goal is to not completely vote down the athletics budget
 - d. However, we have requested information for the AD on multiple occasions and our discussion has not been productive when it comes to data on the SUF Funds being returned to students
 - i. It primarily benefits athletes, pep band, dance team, and a few who go to games
 - e. In discussion this, our advisor gave us the advice that we shouldn't



discuss how the money is being used but only to discuss the budget as it stands

- f. I fundamentally disagree with that with the state law giving SGA the power to represent students
- g. We hope to collect data over the next few days to prevent this from becoming the continuing concern
 - i. IF it is the concern at this time, regardless of how they vote, they should be able to give recommendations
 - ii. Whether that is engaging more students or reducing spending
- h. We did meet with the chancellor, and he gave us some encouraging information about how it is being spent
- i. We just need that data to present it to the committee and without the communication we were hoping to receive from the AD, some members are not able to make that vote
- j. In order to discuss the situation properly, SUFAC needs this power
- k. I think the senate should investigate this in the near future, but we unfortunately have to approve the budget this Saturday

13. Riley: I would personally like to know what the two senators think about this.

You don't have to say anything, but I would love to know

14. Isaac: the main thing I am wondering, is if the whole document is very clear or if anyone has any ideas about any of that.

- a. I feel that the document can be taken in multiple ways, I don't think it



gives a lot of room to take anything to the extreme, but I could see how it could be taken that way depending on the person

15. Meg: I think that there is a couple of wording choices that are a little weak, but it is also general enough that it can be beneficially interpreted and we can also amend it later since D-Day is Saturday
- a. I think it would be important to get it approved as soon as possible
16. Cora: I agree with that, one thing that might make it clearer, in the last part if it specifies that SUFAC be rightfully encouraged to express student opinions.... When considering those budgets but can not deny a budget just because they disagree
17. Harrison: They can deny a budget for any reasons, it is the discussion that comes up
- a. A member can vote on auxiliary budgets based on if it is good or not
 - b. Riley: We are constricted by a supreme court decision, every SUFAC member is trained in viewpoint neutrality and that isn't spelt out, but voting for one thing and voting against the same thing is not allowed
 - i. We don't choose how we apply our guidelines
18. Tristan: The way that I interpret it is that it gives SUFAC a lot more power to come to the table and deliberate with auxiliary
- a. It is really important that we can look at the budget in its entirety and raise concerns and negotiate
 - b. Right now, we can either approve in full or vote it down (the



chancellor can override that)

- c. We want to negotiate with these departments
- d. We want to skip the step of having to discuss it with senate and be able to discuss it right away
- e. The way I interpret it is it gives us more power to negotiate

19. Riley: I think that a lot of senators, I know that a lot of you didn't put SUFAC very high on your list, it would be a nightmare if senate had to address every budget and approve every budget, this helps lessen your load

- a. Sufac has the expertise on this
- b. I could not expect a senator to make an informed decision day of

- Harrison: I would like to move to suspend the normal process and go straight to a vote

- 1. Isaac: Seconded
- 2. Motion passes

- Harrison moved

- 1. Molly seconded
- 2. Motion passes

d) Resolution for the cessation of use of the "Eco-U" trademark at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay

- Harrison: Move to table item until next meeting
 - 1. Alex: Seconded
 - 2. Discussion:



- a. Harrison: While this is a very important topic, two weeks does not make as much of an impact and we have a less packed agenda
3. Vote:
 - a. Approved
- e) Amendment(s) to the Student Government Association of the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay constitution and bylaws to create the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
 - Discussion:
 1. Alex: This amendment seeks to split Academics and Government into two committees to alleviate workload
 2. Riley: One idea for constitutional review in the future, perhaps there should be a way to create committees without amending the constitution
 3. Tristan: I don't see SUFAC in the list
 - a. It is not in the senate constitution
 4. Abbi: Since I am the chair I should probably speak on this
 - a. I think this would be very beneficial, it is a lot to keep track of everything so I think it would help get more things done and passed through
 - b. I am in support of it
 5. Harrison: I will say that I approved the committee with this because our school is one of the only ones who does it this way
 - a. We used to have one person doing both, so we combined it
 - b. We are growing and I think there is enough work to go around and



there will be enough new initiatives

6. Tristan: I agree with what Harrison said, this is bringing us up to par with other SGA's
 - a. I think it is really important and this will open up really great avenues for us in the future
 - b. I fully support this
7. Harrison: There is no difference in substance just wording
8. Harrison: Motion to suspend the rules and vote instead of reading the rest of the document
 - a. Connor: Seconded
 - b. Discussion:
 - c. Vote
 - i. Motion passes
9. Voting on actual item
 - a. Harrison
 - i. Madelyn
 - ii. Discussion:
 - iii. Roll Call Vote:
 1. Senate 12-0-2

Harrison: Four-minute recess

Molly: Seconded

6:49



- If passed, proceed to confirmation of Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs – Alex Langreck

1. Passed through the senate but not the exec

f) Student Workers' Rights Committee development discussion

- Harrison: I would like to table this until next meeting

1. Isaac: seconded

VIII. Standing Committee Reports (Optional)

a) Academics and Governance:

- Yield

b) Arts and Performance:

- Yield

c) Environmental Affairs:

- Yield

d) Equity and Diversity:

- Yield

e) Health and Safety:

- Yield

f) Rec and Athletics:

g) Union and Dining:

- Yield



h) SUFAC:

- We approved 95,000 contingency requests for paintball club
- Preparing substantial by law changes so more orgs can request more money and help make things easier

IX. Announcements:

a) N/a

X. Adjournment:

- a) Harrison: So moved
- b) Madalyn: seconded
- c) Adjourned at 6:51pm