



Student Senate meeting minutes for March 3rd, 2008

Sara Duginske
President

Joe Tyrrell
Student Speaker

Nick Cibula
Vice President

The regular bi-weekly meeting of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Student Senate was called to order at 5:05 P.M. in MAC-204 with Vice President Nick Cibula leading the meeting.

Roll Call – *See Final Page*

The Pledge of Allegiance

Reports

Presidential Report *Sara Duginske*

I will put up a FERPA link on the website and there will be a blog about it. Nick and I will meet with Brand and Pha and the chancellor. Nick will go over the timeline with what will happen. March 10th will be a campus wide forum and everyone is invited. The next thing Andrei and I were spearheading was the global initiative. March 11th – 13th, Dr. Everingham's class with a speaker on the 11th who knows about labor markets as well as disease. On Thursday, Leventova will come in and talk about AIDS and poverty in the Soviet Union. The last thing is a web survey regarding the smoking policy change that is a neutral worded question whether or not there should be a change. Joe is sick tonight.

Vice Presidential Report *Nick Cibula*

Next Monday will be a SUFAC presentation on the SUF rate. Right now, it looks like it will go up. How much it goes up will be decided on Thursday and it will be presented on Monday. The Monday after spring break it will be approved or denied which then goes to the Chancellor. Going along with the smoking policy that there were some questions, and if there are any, email me.

Senate Speaker Report *Joe Tyrrell*

No report.

Good Times Programming Report

There are two programs, one tonight that is a free movie premiere and there are no passes needed. Wednesday night is a Ladies Night Out comedian. Gentleman are invited as well.

RHAA Report

We are working on by-laws right now.

Academic Affairs Report *Steven Schultz*

No report.

Athletics Report *Kervin Blanke*

There is a meeting Thursday with the Kress and Friday an email will be sent out.

Student Resources Report *Shaun Raganyi*

No report.

Health and Safety Report *Joel Diny*

Whatever the survey results are will dictate the course of the committee. I have a meeting next month about the safety climate of the campus.

SUFAC Report *Brad Zuleger*

No report.

University Governance Report *Ricky Staley*

A couple of my senators need to get me their schedules.

Union and Dining Report *Crystal Jushka*

A committee is forming to plan the grand opening of the Union. If anyone is interested, please contact Brenda.

Equality and Diversity Report *Andrei Varney*

There will be a meeting later this week. Rick and I need to work on the SIS language.

New Business

a. FERPA - Melissa Jackson said she served as Legal Counsel for UWGB. Melissa said lots of concerns have come up with FERPA in regards to tragedies on campus. Melissa said most students don't have a clue as to what it is. Melissa said its important for students and parents to know their rights under FERPA. Melissa said the Chancellor asked her to come up with a comprehensive policy to explain to students and parents. Melissa said this is boring but for students, there is a right to privacy in the records. Melissa said all information regarding you and the campus is included and there is a right to privacy. Melissa said once enrolled in college that right belongs to students and not parents. Melissa said certain information can be given out such as address or state of enrollment. Melissa said if she is subpoenaed, then that circumstance trumps FERPA. Melissa added mental health crisis also trumps the rights of students. Melissa said the policy outlines those provisions. Melissa said if students are a dependent of their parents the information can be gotten. Melissa said there have not been major changes made. Melissa said it gets re-explained after tragedies but really hasn't changed since 1972. Melissa said as documents such as student handbook or university emails get ignored, it doesn't really help the exchange. Melissa said the university is trying to make sure students understand their rights. Melissa said there is a right to restrict information as well. Melissa said she wanted feedback on the policy. Ed said there is one section if a student is found using drugs or consuming alcohol under 21 and what is the justification. Melissa said that is the federal law and that student is

considered a dependent. Melissa said it is an option and generally a parent is not informed unless because of safety reasons. Brenda said some campuses notify on first offense but what UWGB does is if the student is bordering on losing housing then the parent is notified. Brenda said serious incidents as well as multiple offenses are reported to parents. Brenda said the philosophy is on the educational level and most times UWGB tries to work with the student. Brenda said if a student is transported from UWGB in an ambulance then the parent is automatically notified. Josh asked if that is a part of the current policy or a new addition. Melissa said it did not change. Melissa said depending on where a student attends college that provision is translated differently. Andrei asked if there are any entities that UWGB is banned from disclosing information such as the media. Melissa said directory information can be given out. Melissa said the federal government can get information. Melissa said after a student dies, FERPA rights end but it is up to the university's discretion. Melissa said if a letter of recommendation is wanted, a student has to sign a document to ensure that the information can be given out. Ed asked if there was a VT incident could the family ensure the information not be released. Melissa said if she got a subpoena, she could tell the student ahead of time to fight it unless it specifically stated not to let the student know. Melissa said under normal circumstances she would give the student or family a chance to challenge the release of information. Brenda said the media will talk to students unofficially to gather information. Melissa said lack of planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on mine. Melissa said there are many reporters who call around to try and get information. Lynsy yielded her time to Paul. Paul said concerning chapter 14th it seems to negate the actual process underage drinking goes and sounds as if as soon as the infraction is committed that the information can be released at will. Paul said if the university mindset changes the process could change. Paul asked at what point does the actual person, if Melissa decides to notify, are the parents notified when. Melissa said there are two different avenues, the police process

with a citation as well as the judicial affairs and Mark Olkowski. Melissa said judicial affairs has a longer process. Melissa said public safety gives a citation and parents can be informed. Melissa said when it comes to judicial affairs, parents are notified after an appeal is lost, if parents are notified at all. Brenda said if it is the 3rd offense it would not be wise not to notify parents if within 24-48 hours the student would be removed. Brenda said parents are notified in make or break situations. Brenda said it does not fit the philosophy of UWGB. Joel asked if information can only be released to students enrolled in campus if only a dependent. Melissa said yes. Melissa said dependent status is confirmed via financial aid records or by faxing a tax return. Melissa said if a student is dependent of one parent, it can be released to both regardless of marital state. Joel asked if disability services allowed to release information. Melissa said all over campus there are student records and FERPA applies to all student records. Melissa said staff will consult with a student to inform the parents first. Brenda said students have been co-operative with signing releases. Brenda said the options are laid out and the student is then the driver. Melissa said students can enter a release to allow their parents to say, talk to Financial Aid, and it can be revoked at any time. Lynsy asked how does FERPA and HIPPA go together in Health Services. Melissa said FERPA doesn't care about health records and HIPPA does not. Melissa said records in the Health Services are not going anywhere without the students consent because it is subject to the State of Wisconsin Medical Privacy Act. Melissa said this is the strictest confidence. Nick asked what was the reason for the change in FERPA. Melissa said there were no changes. Melissa said a federal law was passed to protect student records. Melissa said it needs to be understood about the exemptions when it came to FERPA. Melissa said FERPA protects the exchange of student information within the university. Melissa said it protects information with outside sources. Melissa said FERPA hasn't changed but the explanation has. Melissa said mental health issues are typically hands off but there is an obligation to point out things when they are off. Melissa said in 7

years of working here, FERPA hasn't changed. Jeremy asked if the distribution of FERPA was going to be discussed. Nick said that was not part of the agenda. Tania asked if it hasn't changed since the 70's what is being approved. Melissa said FERPA now is trying to capture what is being done in a policy that is easily readable by parents and students. Tania asked what is being approved the handout or the long list. Brenda said the main part is the same. Brenda said it is not being approved. Brenda said it is an information session. Melissa said she would like a discussion on distribution. Andrei asked if distribution would be 10 pages of policy to students and parents alike. Melissa said it should be decided. Josh made a motion to move into discussion of distribution of FERPA. Ed seconded. Andrei said since it is a 10 page policy it would be a waste of resources to distribute it as an email. Andrei suggested a link. Brenda said it is currently sent out by email. Ed said it could be included as a pamphlet in the acceptance envelope or at FOCUS. Josh agreed and added it could be done during academic advising. Brenda said it is done at FOCUS already. Brenda said the parents are way more concerned than students. Brenda said it is interwoven in examples for parents during their training. Josh said RA's should be more aware of it. Andy asked if it is already online. Brenda said yes. Andy said distribution is already at its peak for FERPA then. Joel said pamphlets would be nice as a quick reference guide. Andrei said FERPA is not a big deal for students. Tania asked if there are places on campus where students can get this information besides being online. Brenda said the Dean of Students office is the place to go. Tania said there are some places that should be decided to keep students aware with hard copies available. Rachel said from the point of ambassadors, it would be nice if more information were given for informing parents. Brenda said the Chief of Police is there for R & R. Andrei said when a student requests a transcript perhaps a copy of FERPA could be handed out as well. Tania said in regards to the alcohol issue to maybe incorporate UWGB's standpoint in FERPA. Brenda said that is usually talked about during freshman year FOCUS. Ellen asked if

it could be documented by key word so students can search regarding certain issues. Brenda said on the Res Life website it has housing violations guidelines that incorporate alcohol issues. Brenda said most students do not get past a 1st drinking violation so FERPA isn't broached often. Joel said underage drinking violations are published on the Wisconsin Circuit Court. Tania said the 1st offense isn't posted on circuit court. Brenda said UWGB does not post that information online. Ricky said students who care will take the initiative, otherwise the Senate does not need to bend over backwards to get the information out there. Brenda said truly as a student there is information overload so until it is relative to the experience it might not be read. Tania asked if the senate feels what is being distributed now is enough for awareness. Josh said that is what is being done. Jamie said promotion should be done. Lynsy asked if a small version is included in the course catalog. Brenda said she will double check it. Joel asked if the PATRIOT ACT trumps FERPA. Brenda said she is not legal counsel and will not answer that. Ed said a button banner could be made on the current students website. Andrei said we are running circles around the issue and have been for the past hour. Lynsy made a motion to exit discussion. Chris seconded. Motion passed. Rick said the word approval is tripping people up maybe perhaps making a motion to endorse the FERPA policy. Nick said the issue is distribution. Nick said he will entertain a motion to increase RA awareness, endorse SGA or including it in the course catalog. Tania made a motion to recommend having FERPA in the RA training, course catalog and SGA endorsement. Casey seconded. Josh called the question. Motion passed 15-0-1. Andrei asked what happens now. Brenda said she will follow up with Melissa and get back to Senate.

Announcements

Quick exec meeting after this as well as a DC summit meeting.

Adjournment

The Senate meeting was adjourned at
6:10 p.m. by Vice President Nick
Cibula.

**These fabulous minutes were
submitted by**

Joy Hanneman