

Getting to Know Our Yellowjackets

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Sophia Johnson

Major: Sophia is a writing major with a minor in Political Science and German

Hometown: Shakopee, MN

Hobbies: Reading, writing, traveling, hanging out with friends, and the monarchy

Fun Fact: She has taken several years of dance and will only look over her left shoulder



Sydni with a Llama

Photo provided by Sydni Sondrol

Sydni Sondrol

Major: Elementary Education

Hometown: Waupeca, WI

Hobbies: Listening to music, hanging out with friends, watching movies

Favorite Thing About UWS: Small campus and small classes. Very big community feel

Campus Involvement: Intermural volleyball and intermural cornhole

Fun Fact: In her junior year of her high school she was an exchange student in Lithuania for the whole year

Habitat Makes a Difference

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In the upcoming 2019 building season, Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity is looking at ways to give back to veterans in our community. A goal with a veteran focus is to partner with a family who has a service member in the household and help make repairs around the home that they may not otherwise be able to do on their own. They are looking for applicants and volunteers.

Specific projects include repairs and retrofits of outdoor home components, such as: ramps, railings, porches and decks, stairs, walkways, basic landscaping and yard clean up. Their goal is to have men and women who have served apply, so that the Veterans Repair Project can be a success.

“As a son with both parents who have served,

I think this is a very important program and way to give back,” said Wesley Frank, an AmeriCorps VISTA member.

For more information about this project or to apply please contact Zane Zimbelman at repairs@wlshabitat.org or if you just want to get involved, please contact Madeline Kvale at volunteer@wlshabitat.org.

Opinion | The United States of Dysfunction: University of Wisconsin Superior Edition

Alisa Von Hagel
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Politics today, to say the very least, is just simply a hot mess. The chaos and confusion of the current system has led to unthinkable levels of mistrust, anger, and hostility. Unfortunately, recent actions here at UWS illustrate the same pattern of deception and failure to acknowledge the rules and policies in place.

This, I fear, will lead to anger and hostility amongst an ever-increasing group of people on campus – so what on earth could have led us down this path?

Faculty senate has recently considered a motion and will reconsider the motion again to eliminate two student representative seats on the Credits and Reinstatement Committee.

Ok, rewind for a moment – and I promise I will do my best to be brief. In Wisconsin, students, along with faculty and staff, are granted certain powers and responsibilities to ensure each can act as a viable participant in university affairs.

So, while that may sound boring and underwhelming, it's actually a pretty amazing thing: students, faculty, and staff all have a say (that needs to be acknowledged and addressed) in the operations of the university.

So, as I was saying, faculty senate met and considered this motion to remove the student seats from a university committee. No consultation or notification was sent to Student Government before the meeting, nor was the meeting advertised as required under law, so those with an interest can know and attend.

Upon discussion of this motion, there was no written justification or clear basis for the removal; a range of arguments were thrown out during the debate. These justifications range from the absurd and irrelevant to false and misleading to the downright ridiculous.

As required by federal law, the university has a webpage with privacy policies and training that all university employees take. Any student employees will be familiar with this process as it's required for employment.

Why this process is sufficient for students working as RAs, in Financial Aid, Human Resources, or Parking Services - for example -, but is insufficient for the student's serving on this particular committee is not clear nor has any justification or explanation been given.

Of greatest concern is the argument that students cannot be trusted with such important information, thus they should not be called upon to attend and make contributions to a group making critical decisions over other students' future here on campus.

This assumption – that students cannot be trusted nor can they handle the 'sensitive details' of other student's lives that could potentially arise – not only violates established norms, policies, and laws, it fosters a dangerous level of mistrust and suspicion, that unfortunately, is bound to spread quickly.

While this may seem like a fair bit of hyperbole and exaggeration, at least consider the future students who may file a petition to this committee. Potentially, they could face a group of just three faculty members, who are charged with an incredible responsibility of making a determination that shapes – or potentially ends – their time at UWS. Or, they could petition a committee that happens to contain two of their peers – individuals who may in fact be more likely to understand their current experiences, problems, and issues that led to the petition. If it were you, which would you choose?

If you knew your right to be heard by a committee that included your peers – other students – was taken away by those in charge, how comfortable would you feel making a

petition to the committee?

For all students on this campus, this moment represents a clear point at which faculty members, making ever so nonchalantly a motion to eliminate students' right to be heard, represents a violation of policy, and law.

For everyone else at UWS, this moment is one where we have signaled, ever so clearly, that arbitrary and baseless actions, predicated on unclear and misleading claims, which led to the removal of one's peers from a critical university committee, is accepted practice here.

It's my hope that others will step up and stand up for the rights of students – the legitimacy of students to have a seat at the decision-making table, and perhaps more importantly, trust in their ability to do the job.

Anything less would be a disservice to students, the university, and ourselves. Anything less would put us right there in the muck and mud inhabited by our political officials – and I, for one, would hate to join them.

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