

**The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Intergovernmental Affairs Commission
Legislative Priority Summary
Fall 2020 (Attachment A)**

1. Eau Claire Campus

a. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Initiative

i. Objective

1. Advocate and encourage the established EDI Initiative to grow the number of students of color enrolled in the university to 20% and close the opportunity gap per the 2016-2020 university strategic plan guidepost goal.
2. Advocate for increased EDI initiatives and retention for nontraditional marginalized groups.
3. Encourage diversity and inclusion within representative governing bodies on campus, as well as all organizations and groups on campus.

ii. Implementation

1. Coordinate with Equity in Student Matters Director to ensure that the standards are being met with this particular initiative.
2. Continue to foster amicable and candid relations with the varying representative governing bodies on campus, including RHA.
3. Continue to foster and encourage open communication regarding diversity.
4. Have a line of open communication with administration for accountability and transparency for any incident or action regarding EDI Initiatives.

b. Mental Health/Counseling Services Advocacy

i. Objective

1. Advocate for and increase awareness of mental health issues and resources on campus.
2. Increase number of BIPOC counselors to better assist BIPOC students to connect with someone that may share their experiences.

ii. Implementation

1. Work with counseling services and student organizations, such as Suicide Prevention and Research Collaborative (SPARC), which support mental health awareness in order to continue to provide excellent mental health resources for students at the University.

c. Disabilities

i. Objective

1. Advocate for increased universal accessibility options within existing and new university constructions.

ii. Implementation

1. Educate students, faculty, and administration on the growing need for accessibility, a topic that must be included within the discussions regarding new construction projects on campus.
2. Advocate for more accessibility for online learning options both in a pandemic learning atmosphere and post-pandemic.

d. Dining

i. Objective

1. Continue to provide input to the university and Sodexo regarding meal plans.

ii. Implementation

1. Educate students on the various dining options.
2. Work to provide better choices for students on campus, including better vegetarian and vegan options, religious options (Kosher, Lent, Halal, etc.), as well as the choice to not choose a meal plan.
3. Work to incorporate better labeling of available food on university grounds, complete with nutrition facts and warnings.

e. Emergencies

i. Objective

1. Advocate for students' best interest in times of emergency

ii. Implementation

1. Engage in conversations with administration and campus risk management about how to handle campus emergencies and communicate how to best help students.

2. City of Eau Claire

a. Neighborhood Relations

i. Objective

1. Collaborate with Randall Park and Third Ward neighborhood associations.
2. Maintain and improve relationships with these associations.

ii. Implementation

1. Organize social events within Randall Park and the Third Ward to get students more engaged with their neighbors.
2. Establish liaison positions to the Randall Park and Third Ward neighborhood associations.

b. Election Student Engagement

i. Objective

1. Increase voter turnout among students for the elections taking place in November

ii. Implementation

1. Educate students on how this election will affect them and how to vote.
2. Utilize materials obtained through the "Get Out the Vote" campaign.

c. Sonnentag Event and Recreation Complex

i. Objective

1. Provide student input to the administration in the creation of the facility, and determine functions that will best serve the body

ii. Implementation

1. To ensure an informed student body, begin the viewpoint-neutral process of educating students about the project this semester, in order to enhance the benefit of a referendum in the spring.
2. Lobby for increased and universal accessibility options within the project.
3. Encourage sustainable practices within the project.

d. City Ordinances

i. Objective

1. Reexamine city ordinances that disproportionately affect student populations.
2. Provide educational opportunities for students to learn their position and rights within the city.

ii. Implementation

1. Research and find injustices within the city's laws.
2. Lobby in favor of students in each case to Eau Claire City Council, Eau Claire County Board, and other governing bodies of the area.
3. Hold workshops, seminars, or other optional educational events to inform students of their rights with landlords, law enforcement, and other factions within the city.

e. Housing/Landlords

i. Objectives

1. Find solutions to "Homeless Week" for off campus housing that works well for landlords, the city, and students.
2. Lower the pressure put upon students having to sign leases very early in the school year.

ii. Implementation

1. Speak with landlords and City of Eau Claire to figure out a solution.

3. State of Wisconsin

a. Student Loan Refinancing

i. Objective

1. Advocate for greater focus on student loan issues within the state legislature.
2. Encourage lawmakers to take student input into consideration when creating policy

ii. Implementation

1. Conduct personal lobbying trips for advocacy and improvement.

b. Funding to the UW system

i. Objective

1. Ensure the University of Wisconsin System remains adequately funded in order to provide the highest level of education.
 - ii. Implementation
 1. Lobby on behalf of the University of Wisconsin system as a whole with a student perspective as to why proper funding is necessary for a successful education.
 2. Engage Legislators in discussion regarding this topic through personal lobbying trips or correspondence.
- c. **State Policies**
 - i. Objective
 1. Reexamine state bills that disproportionately affect student populations.
 - ii. Implementation
 1. Research and find injustices within the state's laws.
 2. Lobby in favor of students in each case to the Wisconsin State Legislature, representatives of the Eau Claire area, and all others appropriate.
 3. Provide adequate educational opportunities for students to learn their position and rights within the state of Wisconsin and nation.