

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE  
STUDENT ASSOCIATION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 8, 2016**

**UWL Student Association Response to Governor Walker’s “Opt-out” Option for Allocable Segregated Fees**

LA CROSSE, WI - Yesterday, Governor Scott Walker released his plans for the UW System’s budget. While we are very open to the overall budget for the UW System, the UWL Student Association expresses its disappointment and opposition to a portion of Governor Walker’s budget proposal that would allow an “opt-out” option on allocable segregated fees. This proposal will only hurt students in the years to come if it is implemented in this year’s biennial budget.

UWL is a campus that is a beacon for bringing education to life through its on-campus involvement opportunities. An “opt-out” option on allocable segregated fees would severely hamper the ability for students to participate in valuable opportunities on campus that help better prepare them for their careers ahead. Services and opportunities that would be negatively impacted by this proposal include student bus and safe ride services, varsity athletics, multicultural programs, music programs, theatre, campus radio, student government, and many other student organizations.

Without an assurance of consistent funds, many entities will be at risk of major funding losses and budgetary uncertainties from year to year. This situation goes against the needed steps to stay fiscally responsible and will make it difficult for these vital entities to thrive. A lack of funding will also cause an issue of free riding on many opportunities around campus, as students may find that they want to participate in programming that they previously opted out of.

“Our organization has always been proud of the great stewardship that our students provide in allocating the needed funds to services and organizations on campus”, states Student Association President Jacob Schimmel. “This proposal will result in a significant loss of funding to vital entities on campus that are solely for serving students. I hope that this proposal will be reconsidered going forward so that we can properly support the needs of students on our campus.”

For more information on UWL Student Association’s response to this proposal, please contact:  
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