



United Council of UW Students

**Presentation to the
UW System Board of Regents
May 9th, 2003**

Overview: Mission

- **Non-profit, non-partisan (501c3) lobby and advocacy group for UW students**
- **Student run, student directed**
- **In addition to lobby/advocacy work, United Council researches issues, provides networking opportunities, holds events, and runs campaigns.**

Overview: Membership

24 of the 26 UWS schools are members

- UWs Stout and Whitewater are currently not members

All 13 UW College campuses are members

- Membership is by individual campus-not as an institution

Overview: Mandatory Refundable Fee (87-3)

- Created by the Board of Regents in 1987
- The current fee is \$1.35 per student per semester and summer session
- The fee plus postage is refundable
- Membership is decided by campus referenda every two years

Overview: 9 Staff

1 President

- Elected to a one year term
- Full time
- Chief executive and political leader
- Registered lobbyist

8 Directors

- Hired for full-time two year terms,
- Staggered terms to reduce turnover
- Mostly recent graduates
- 1 additional lobbyist

Overview: Staff

- President*
- Executive Director
- Legislative Affairs Director*
- Academic Affairs Director
- Shared Governance Director
- Organizing and Communications Director
- Multicultural Issues Director
- Women's Issues Director
- LGBTQ Issues Director

* registered lobbyists

History

- 1960: Nine schools come together at Stevens Point and form United Council.
- 1971: The Wisconsin State and University of Wisconsin Systems merge. United Council helps draft 36.09(5).

History

- 1987: United Council and the Board of Regents create the Mandatory Refundable Fee.
- 1994-2000: Successfully worked with UW System to protect student fee autonomy in *Southworth v. the UW System Board of Regents*.

Services

- Advocacy and Lobbying
- Research
- Networking
- Campaigns



Events

- 7 General Assemblies
- Alumni Picnic
- Summer Leadership Retreat
- Women's Retreat
- Student of Color Symposium
- Shared Governance/Student Fee Summit

Conferences

- **Building Unity**
 - State's largest multicultural conference
 - This fall will be the 12th annual conference
- **Women's Leadership Conference**
 - State's largest women's conference
 - This spring will be the 7th annual conference

Past Legislative Victories

- 1971: Helped write state statute 36.09(5)
- 1999: Banned the use of social security numbers as IDs
- 2000: Resident tuition freeze
- 2001: Reauthorized VAWA and Hates Crimes legislation
- 2002: Passed Add-a-Regent legislation out of committee

‘01-’03 Budget Adjustment Bill

- Linked financial aid increases to tuition increases
- Capped tuition at 8%
- Eliminated a 10% non-resident surcharge (saved students \$1,600)
- Eliminated the 165 credit surcharge (saved students \$200/credit)

‘01-’03 Budget Adjustment Bill

- Restored funding for study abroad grants and travel
- Defeated an Assembly proposal to increase the UWS base budget cut from \$50M to \$100M
- Successfully lobbied to reduce the base cut to \$44M

‘03-’05 Budget: Doyle Proposal

- Eliminated statutory cap on the WHEG
- Instituted a hard cap on tuition (15/18%)
- Lobbied for a record financial aid increase of \$23.6M
- Lobbied against damaging shared revenue cuts

Statewide Campaigns

- Fall: Vote 2002

- Vote Conference included forums with the candidates from the 4 major parties
- Targeted races in Eau Claire, Sheboygan and Manitowoc
- Registered thousands of students to vote

- Spring: State Budget

Priorities

- GPR funding for financial aid
- Protect shared revenue
- Restore base budget funding
- Lower the proposed tuition increase

Campaign Events

- Vote 2002 Conference
- State Budget
Campaign Training
- Coordinated Press
Conferences
- Lobby Days
- Days of Action
- March on the Capitol



Other Priorities

- Federal: Higher Education Act
 - PELL grant increase
 - PELL as an entitlement
 - TRIO eligibility for UW Colleges
 - Repeal the drug and selective service provisions
- Other priorities
 - Differential tuition policy initiative
 - SEVIS funding
 - Affirmative action
 - Curriculum infusion
 - Advising
 - AB 208: Add-a-Regent legislation

Vision and Direction

THIS
MAKE US YOUR
PRIORITY

HELL
YES WE
WILL
WE
ARE YOUR
FUTURE

WE
ARE
THE
FUTURE
OF
WI

I AM
THE
FUTURE
OF WI

WE ARE
the
FUTURE
of WI

WE ARE
THE
FUTURE
OF WI

Recent Changes

- **Staggered two-year staff terms**
- **Revised calendar**
- **Restructured budget**
- **Statewide campaigns in Fall and Spring**

More Regent Engagement

- **United Council and New Regent orientation?**
- **Liaison between SGA's and Regents' adopted campuses**
- **Incorporate the Regents into more United Council events**
- **Promote the Student Regent as a statewide student leader**

Regent Packets

- **Purpose**

- Update the Board on student issues
- Provide the student perspective on pending items of business
- Request Board action

- **Content**

- UC News, GA resolutions, Conference information, and Regent Items

- **Feedback**

Organizational Restructuring

- **Creation of a Foundation**
- **Reviewing the MRF**
- **New Office?**
- **Seeking more grant funding**
- **Alumni Events**
- **The role of the UC President-should we elect a current student?**

The Future

- 5 year strategic plan for United Council
- Building the State Student Association (SSA) movement nationally

A group of people is gathered in front of a large, classical-style building with many windows. They are holding a large, white banner with bold, black text. The text on the banner reads: "WE ARE YOUR FUTURE" on the top line and "MAKE US YOUR PRIORITY" on the bottom line. The scene is outdoors, and the overall tone is one of a public demonstration or protest.

WE ARE YOUR FUTURE
MAKE US YOUR PRIORITY

Thank You