

03/29/2007

Dear UWM Leader,

I am writing to address the severe under-coverage of the Student Association's most important recent actions, particularly those in which SA successfully confronted the administration for the sake of student rights. While covering an SA-sponsored exposition of student resource centers has its merits, it is inexcusable to choose publication of such a routine event at the expense of omitting more groundbreaking SA news.

Specifically, the SA Senate recently approved the Suspect Description Disclosure Act, which requires the Office of University Relations to include in emails to students about crimes committed on or near campus all details of the suspects as provided by police. Prior to this bill, University Relations had purposefully stricken such useful suspect information such as height, weight, and other immutable characteristics from their email alerts. Besides encouraging students to be more vigilant and therefore more self-empowered, increasing this information disclosure sends a clear message to criminals that students are actively watching to create a disincentive for crime on and near campus.

The Senate overrode a presidential veto on the Suspect Description Disclosure Act to score a decisive win for student safety on campus. Another significant victory for student rights occurred when the SA Senate approved the Black and Gold Committees Appointment Act, which chastised the administration of multiple schools and colleges within UWM for appointing members of Black and Gold Committees through votes of faculty and academic staff rather than through the Student Association-sanctioned method of selection and approval via applications reviewed by the SA Shared Governance Committee. The bill also recognized the applicants approved by the Shared governance Committee as the rightful voting members of those Black and Gold Committees, which are important because their membership decides how differential tuition is spent within their respective school or college.

In summary, I invite the Leader to listen in on more Senate meetings and to publicize the fruits of the SA to students.

Joseph Ohler

Deputy Speaker of the SA Senate