

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Student Government Association
Student Body

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"A Call for Solidarity in the Face of Bias and Hate"

To the community of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus, and the surrounding area:

Since February of this very year over twenty incidents of bias and hate have been reported by students of diverse backgrounds, with many more incidents having gone unreported. As representatives of the student body, the Student Government Association (SGA) cannot and will not remain silent in the face of the grievous student experiences being brought to light. We are committed to standing in solidarity with students of diverse backgrounds who have experienced bias and/or hate on and around our campus.

Our strategic plan, as derived from "A Partnership for Thriving Communities," states that we strive "to make our university a model of a thriving community." This language was chosen by UWSP to encapsulate our values, and our vision, for the community. In our eyes, a thriving community is vibrant, healthy, prosperous, and sustainable. Such a community benefits each of its members, while also laying a foundation for future prosperity. The attitudes and behaviors harming, frightening, and endangering our students and neighbors fundamentally contradict our beliefs about community.

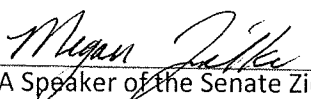
Students at UWSP have repeatedly been harassed through social media posts, in face-to-face incidents, and in their living quarters. Students have reported being stalked, and followed by vehicles. The safety and peace of mind of our campus community is being threatened; it is time we act.

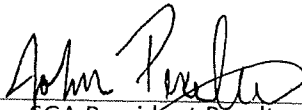
As a body of student representatives we call for the following immediate community-wide actions:

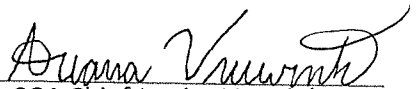
- Immediately report all incidents of bias and/or hate that you witness on campus to the UWSP Protective Services phone number at (715) 346-3456; and off campus to the Stevens Point Police Non-Emergency phone number at (715) 346-1500;
- Document evidence of the bias and/or hate incident;
- Encourage survivors to submit an official report to the Office of the Dean of Students (www.uwsp.edu/dos), anonymous reports are accepted;
- If informed of bias and/or hate incidents offer your support to the survivor and;
- Be understanding and empathetic of students who fear they are targeted by individuals in our community.

We commend the administrators and public servants who have devoted their time and energy to listen to their students' experiences, and also to those who work to build partnerships and relationships that support students. However, it is time for everyone in our community to begin to do the same.

When our students feel their well-being, integrity, or very lives are at risk, we lose their visions, voices, and patronage in our community. Without safety for the members of our community, we will all fail to thrive.


SGA Speaker of the Senate Zielke


SGA President Peralta


SGA Chief Justice Vruwink