

The Advance-Titan

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What's
inside:

@theadvancetitan

@theadvancetitan

atitan@uwosh.edu



Fox Cities Foundation

Page 2



UWO wins WIAC

Page 5



Faculty Senate vote

Page 8



Background photo courtesy of UWO Flickr, Art by Josh Lehner / Advance-Titan

UWO Provost Edwin Martini announced Friday that the university plans to reshape the school's academic structure by January 2025 and laid out two separate plans to condense colleges and schools.

UWO to restructure academics

Provost lays out two different models to reshape the university

By Jacob Link and Josh Lehner
linkj13@uwosh.edu
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh Provost Edwin Martini announced Friday the university's plan to reshape the school's academic structure by January 2025 with one of two different models that would shift the university's colleges and schools.

"We spent months in an inclusive, collaborative, thoughtful process designed intentionally to protect programs and faculty positions," Martini said in an email to students. "Our goal was to design new structures that explore additional ways to sustain and enhance UWO programs for the long term. Refusing to choose a direction — inaction — would force alternative cuts to close the university's deficit. You don't want that. We don't want that."

Currently, UWO is split into four academic colleges: the College of Business, the College of Education and Human Services, the College of Letters and Science (COLS) and the College of Nursing. UWO also has an Honors College.

On their website, the UWO administration outlined the need for restructuring, and stated that "in our current fiscal crisis, academic reorganization will save money

and retain faculty. Various committees and task forces have studied our academic organization over the past decade and made recommendations for change, but so far no action has been taken at the university level."

On top of that, the report stated that the current structure is unbalanced. COLS is larger than the other three colleges combined and sports 226 tenure-track faculty, while the other three colleges have 90 in total.

To fix this imbalance, the university has proposed two restructuring plans.

The first restructuring plan, "Model A," divides the university into three colleges and six schools. The three colleges included are the College of Business, Media & Communication, the College of Culture, Society & Education and the College of Nursing, Health Professions and STEM.

The six schools included in the plan are Business; Culture & Society; STEM; Media, Communication & Arts; Education and Nursing & Health Professions.

According to the administration's report, this would save UWO \$1.75 million.

The report lists other benefits to Model A, including that the "colleges simplify student transi-

tions between related disciplines" and that the "colleges enable curricular coordination among related programs."

The second plan, "Model B," divides UWO into three colleges and eight schools. The three colleges in this model are the College of Business, Science & Technology, the College of Culture, Society & Education and the College of Nursing & Health Professions. This is estimated to save the university \$1.5 million.

The eight schools in this model include Business; Culture & Society; Public Administration & Sustainability; STEM; Education; Media, Communication & Arts and Nursing.

The report listed some of the benefits to Model B, including that it is similar to UWO's current structure and that the student headcount is more balanced between colleges and schools.

Environmental Studies and History Professor Jim Feldman, who served on the academic restructuring committee, said he worked alongside a large group of faculty and staff from all over the university to create both plans.

"The provost gave us some design considerations, such as how we have to reduce costs, reduce the number of chairs, create programs that help make Oshkosh

more regionally distinctive so we can make UWO stand out with its program offerings and reduce barriers for students to graduate," Feldman said. "A group of faculty divided into different groups, we came up with different ideas and we bounced ideas off each other. In December, they brought some of those ideas to campus for feedback. We had a bunch of long workshops in January, and the result of that was the two models for restructuring that went out last Friday."

UWO Philosophy Professor and Faculty Senate member Richard Wagoner said that these plans were produced in collaboration with the Faculty Senate.

"The provost has been quite good, in my own view, in proceeding in a way that has encouraged faculty involvement," he said. The committee that has been tasked with formulating plans [and which has been at work on this for some months now] is loaded with faculty members from all over — every college, division, campus, etc."

Wagoner said that the Faculty Senate worked directly with Martini to fill the committee overseeing the realignment plan, and has been involved throughout the process.

Turn to **Restructure** / Page 2

University aims to reshape Polk

By Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh is moving forward with its plans to reimagine Polk Library, which is suffering from deterioration, with meetings in the coming months to determine whether the building will be renovated or entirely rebuilt.

Built in the 1960s, Polk library has sustained a lot of damage, including water damage that has rendered some of the building unusable.

Addressing the state of Polk in February 2023 in a town hall, Chancellor Andrew Leavitt said that "Polk turns 60 this year and is in dire need of repairs or an upgrade."

The upgrade process picked up steam in November of last year when University Archivist and Head of Public Services Joshua Ranger announced that the Department of Administration and UW System selected an architectural firm to assess the building.

Ranger said that, along with building projects occurring at other UW campuses, the Polk project "is part of a System-wide process of replacing 1960s-era libraries."

Late last year, meetings were held to continue developing a vision for Polk's future, Library Director Sarah Neises said.

She said that the team chosen for the Polk project visited campus in December and held an open meeting for students, faculty and the campus community. There were also meetings held with staff from the library, campus academic resources, sustainability and facilities.

"The architecture and design team gathered feedback about what the campus wants in a 21st century library," she said. "The vision is to reinvent the intellectual heart of campus and create an academic support hub."

An academic support hub would include features such as tutoring and the writing center in addition to technology and innovation spaces.

She said that a new Polk should be the intellectual heart of campus that's not only a library, but also a support hub for students. In the meetings, students expressed a desire for welcoming and cozy spaces with multiple entrances.

Polk staff also conducted whiteboard polling in December to gauge what a reimagined library should look like, Neises said.

Turn to **Polk** / Page 3

Advance-Titan

Phone: 920-424-3048

Email: atitan@uwosh.edu

Website: advancetitan.com

Editor-in-Chief
Anya Kelley
kelleyan55@uwosh.edu

Managing Editor
Kelly Hueckman
hueckk24@uwosh.edu

News Editor
Josh Lehner
lehnerjo70@uwosh.edu

Assistant News Editor
Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Arts & Culture Editor
Angela Satterlee

Sports Editor
Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

Opinion Editor
Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Photo Editor
Jessica Duch
duchje18@uwosh.edu

Advertising Manager
Luke Bussey
busseylu85@uwosh.edu

Social Media Editor
Ellie Ramsay
ramsayel01@uwosh.edu

Web Editor
Ella Rider
riderel14@uwosh.edu

Copy Chief
Kyiah Nelson
nelsok45@uwosh.edu

Copy Desk Editors
Alvaro Rivera, Ella Rider

Graphic Designer
Michael Buckner, Ella Sasse

Staff Writers
Brandon Cobb, Aubrie Selsmeyer, Nolan Andler, Nolan Swenson

Photographers
Morgan Feltz

Distribution Manager
Doug Newhouse
newhousedo78@uwosh.edu

Faculty Adviser
Barb Benish
benish@uwosh.edu

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Restructure: Reacting to the new plan

From Page 1

“The Provost has provided updates to the Senate regularly, and the Senate has been involved in facilitating opportunities for feedback and discussion of the ongoing efforts to transform UWO,” he said.

Wagoner said that, as of right now, there has been little discussion about the two models, which were released on Feb. 16. However, he said that it will be discussed at the next Senate meeting.

Neither of these models will eliminate programs or faculty, and the report notes that some majors and programs are not shown on their models for simplicity. Additionally, the new programs will not force departments and programs to move their physical locations.

Martini said that while it has been a challenging time at UWO, the choices that campus administrators are making have been working.

“UWO’s structural deficit has been significantly reduced,” Martini said. “We are on track to eliminate it next year when we take these final steps.

Feldman said the goal of both plans is to have a minimal impact on students in terms of the programs and majors that are still going to be offered.

“There’s going to be some conversation about are there programs we are offering that we should stop offering,” Feldman said. “But that’s not what we’ve talked about so far. If this solves the budget problems, I think that would be a huge benefit for students because there will be

more flexibility and more money to fund other kinds of options and opportunities.”

Reactions to restructuring plan

UWO Political Science Professor David Siemers said the new restructuring plan is not the first step in solving budget issues, but instead is a step that came well after 200 jobs were eliminated at the university.

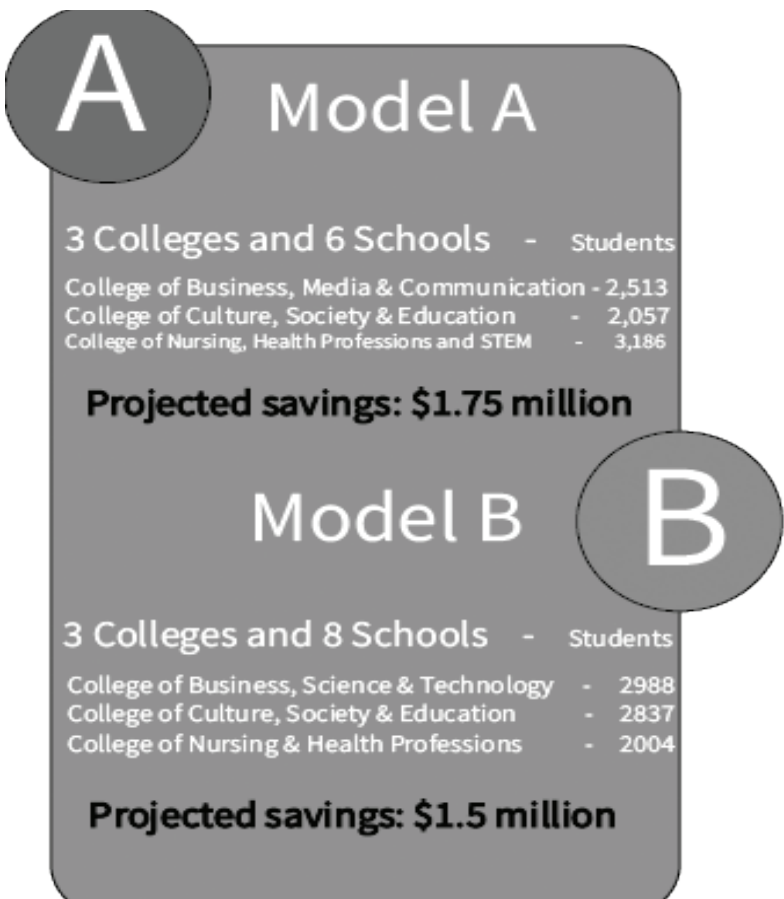
“It is a challenge in any environment to enact sweeping changes to our academic programing; to do so at a time of substantial mistrust in the administration probably makes it harder,” Siemers said. “Faculty need reassurances that they will continue to determine what majors look like, what classes are offered and how they are delivered.”

Journalism Professor Vincent Filak said the university had two very separate approaches with Model A and Model B of the academic restructuring.

“I think that there’s one that is really streamlined to benefit students and one that is really meant to try to create that college to career path that [Martini] has been talking about,” Filak said. “One’s really looking at the most overall savings while making some smart decisions, while the other one ... [is] a rolling mess of just ‘wedge everything into one giant college and hope for the best.’”

Filak said he looks at Model A and thinks that it could be good for a lot of departments across campus, not just his own.

Moving forward, the Senate will ratify the language of the referen-



Graphic by Josh Lehner

dum on the two models in March, followed by a ratification of one of them in the Faculty Senate by the end of this semester.

It is then expected that transition and implementation teams will help implement the change by January 2025, according to the university’s website.

More info on the new models, including an FAQ page, can be found at uwosh.edu/academic-affairs/academic-planning/.

Filak said he encourages stu-

dents to ask questions and think about where their major or area of study falls in both plans.

“Asking why questions gets you a lot of important answers and I think that by the time this thing rolls on through, students can make the argument, ‘well I’m going to be gone,’ but you can make that argument about anything,” Filak said. “Students have just as much of a right, if not more, to voice their opinion. Without you, we don’t have this [institution].”

UWO grad now executive director

By Jessica Duch
duchje18@uwosh.edu

It was a full circle moment for Amber Hammond. Despite the budget crisis at UW Oshkosh, the 2021 advertising and marketing graduate dreamed of returning to the campus that she said gave her the world.

Last November, she fulfilled that dream by accepting a position as executive director at UWO Fox Cities Foundation.

At just 25, Hammond embraced UWO’s challenges, one of which was maintaining funds for the foundation.

“With the uncertainty that we have at the university, a lot of people don’t want to give money. That’s fair, that makes sense,” Hammond said.

She plans to address this issue by hosting events in recognition of contributors.

“For the first time in years, I’m going to be doing donor events,” Hammond said. “So this spring, I have one coming up just to kind of show that we care and appreciate them.”

Hammond also emphasized the recognition of students who earn scholarships.

“This might be the first big thing that they’ve gotten, or it might be their first award,” Hammond said. “I think instead of just giving them the check in their bank account, we should also do something special for them.”

Hammond recalled a sophomore she helped at UWO Fox Cities, Abigail Thomas. Thomas and Hammond met last December at a fundraiser called Theatre for the

Mind, where Thomas received a scholarship from the foundation.

Thomas explained the positive impact Hammond has had on her life.

“Amber has opened so many new opportunities for me to explore at my school,” she said. “She has always encouraged me to go out and try new things even if they seem frightening at first.”

As a first-generation student, Hammond is no stranger to overcoming adversity for new opportunities.

“College was never in my plans,” Hammond said. “I grew up in a poverty household in Michigan, and no one had went to college before. So, when I came to Oshkosh, I was really, really lost. I didn’t know what was going on. I didn’t know what college was; I knew nothing about it.”

The community and connections Hammond found were what she said made her time at UWO so special.

“I had an amazing adviser who got involved in my life as much or as little as I wanted her to,” Hammond said. “There were times that I went in there crying saying, ‘I can’t do this, I’m dropping out of school tomorrow’ and she would talk me through things and be like, ‘No, no! You can if you want, but I’m gonna tell you why you shouldn’t.’”

Hammond also credited campus jobs and student organizations as being crucial parts of her experience at UWO. One such organization was the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), where she met Carmen Hetzel, chapter adviser for NSLS.

Hetzel said that as president of NSLS, Hammond was crucial in planning events during the confusion of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“She was brilliant under pressure,” Hetzel said. “She led with confidence and grace, and yeah, it was a little bit intense and scary at times because we just didn’t know.”

The online events that Hammond built are still in use today and now benefit non-traditional students.

“We’ve been able to really serve more students who aren’t on campus,” Hetzel said. “That foundational shift that we were able to change made us more accessible to more members, and more leaders got to participate in our leadership development because of [Hammond’s contributions].”

Similar to leading NSLS during the chaos of the pandemic, Hammond acknowledged the uncertainties of leading the Foundation amidst the university’s chaotic financial status.

“It’s sad,” she said. “I do trust that the right decisions are being made, and they are being thought-



Jessica Duch / Advance-Titan
Amber Hammond sits in her office as the executive director at the UWO Fox Cities Foundation. She wasn’t sure if college was in her future. But, after graduating, she now helps raise money for student scholarships.

fully made because I think that’s important.”

She also highlighted her commitment to UWO’s students.

“Oshkosh gave me the world, and I wanted to give back to it,” Hammond said. “Right now, with the uncertainty of what’s happening at the campus, everyone’s on edge there. You can feel it in the air right when you walk into the building. I don’t want that atmosphere to wear on them. So, what’s driving me right now is truly making sure that we’re there to serve our purpose. Our purpose is to help educate people, and that’s what I’m trying to do.”

Polk: New plan for 62-year-old library

From Page 1

Polk staff also conducted whiteboard polling in December to gauge what a reimagined library should look like, Neises said.

“The top vote-getters for students were 24-hour study space, library cafe and usable outdoor space,” she said. “Students were also enthused about having fireplaces in the library, more windows, a variety of furniture, more group study rooms and more individual study rooms.”

On top of these, more accessibility will be a part of a new Polk, including gender neutral bathrooms, lactation rooms and accessible navigation.

The next steps in the Polk project will be meetings with architects and designers in late February, where Neises said the architects will present three options to review.

The three options include reusing the current building — both the North and South sides, reusing one of the two buildings or starting from scratch by constructing an entirely new building.

Polk has undergone many upgrades in the past, many of which have been the result of its age. Ranger said that some areas have had to be recarpeted due to water damage.

“Nine staff offices on the first floor, as well as Polk 116A and

select areas of the EMC, were recarpeted and the asbestos tiles under the carpet were removed due to the aging of the carpet [I believe it was laid down in 1988],” he said.

He added that Polk 205 — a quiet study room — had to be cleaned up due to water damage.

“This room was recarpeted, and new furniture added after it was flooded from a broken radiator,” he said. “It then flooded again but before the furniture arrived and then again, slightly after the new furniture came.”

In May 2022, a pipe over the library’s archives began to leak, which could have destroyed artifacts that don’t exist anywhere else.

Neises said there will be a final review of the three options at a March 8 meeting.

“The campus, [university] administration and the Universities of Wisconsin administration will need to decide which option



Left: A section of books are off limits after suffering water damage in Polk in 2014. Right: Library staff mop up water that leaked from a radiator in 2022.



Courtesy of Polk Library

to pursue further,” she said.

In a reimagined Polk, Neises said that she wants to see more social and study spaces that are enjoyable to be in.

“I would be excited to see a space that has a cafe, plenty of group and individual study rooms and easy access to vital services such as library help and tutoring/writing assistance,” she said. “One thing I love about our current library building is the windows, so I would hope to have a space that is filled with light.”

Additionally, she said she

hopes to have an archives and area research center that has instruction and exhibit space, with an HVAC system to control temperature and humidity for the exhibit pieces there.

“It would be nice if the new space contained a technology lab that students would find exciting and useful,” she said. An idea that has been floating around is an event space that could host university events and be used by students when not hosting an event. I think students would enjoy a traditional book-lined reading room to focus on their work.”

She said that another idea would be to have a single, unified service desk that makes it easier for students to find the help they need.

“A 24-hour card access space is something students have mentioned as a desirable feature,” she said. “Wellness, meditation and prayer spaces are also ideas for the project. I would be thrilled to have a new space that does not suffer the leaks, floods, and wild temperature swings that the current space suffers.”

OSG applications open for spring election

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

Applications for the Oshkosh Student Government 2024 spring election opened Monday morning, with president, vice president and senator positions becoming available for UW Oshkosh students to apply for.

Candidates for any OSG position must submit the appropriate paperwork found at uwosh.edu/osg/voting before 3 p.m. March 4 either via email or in person to be eligible for the spring election, which will be held March 18-19. Ballots for the OSG election will be provided electronically to all students.

If more than one pair of candidates runs for president or vice president, OSG will host a debate on March 6.

OSG Program Adviser Tyler Klaver said that student input and advocacy is extremely important on any campus.

“That is OSG’s primary role: to be the voice of the student body at UWO, to be advocates for the fellow students,” Klaver said. “If students are experiencing issues, there are student leaders on campus that can help seek solutions with campus administrators.”

Klaver said the 2024 OSG spring elections are important because they are a great opportunity for interested students to seek out leadership opportunities.

“[The election also] provides students a democratic avenue to select who should represent them on campus,” Klaver said.

OSG President Ben Blaser said the organization is important for UWO students because it gives

them a chance to advocate for themselves.

“OSG is the voice of the student body, so it is important that students get involved,” Blaser said. “Voting in OSG elections is important because you are able to choose who is representing the student body.”

OSG is looking to fill positions for president and vice president, which must run together on the same ticket, and 25 senators. OSG features three types of senators: at-large senators, who represent the student body; advocacy senators, who represent specific student communities on campus as a whole; and academic senators, who represent specific academic colleges on campus. OSG Senators spend 2-3 hours per week on senate responsibilities and serve on one to two college committees as student representatives.

Elected positions in OSG run through the entire 2024-25 academic year and all elected positions receive some form of scholarship for their work.

Klaver said for more direct and advanced involvement in student government, UWO students can consider running for president/vice president or applying for one of the few director positions on the executive board.

“If students are looking to serve a handful of hours a month but to still have an impact on student voice, they can consider running for one of our 30 senator seats or to serve as a student representative on one of the many campus committees that need student input,” Klaver said. “All opportunities offer leadership development and experience for those looking to grow their



Courtesy of OSG

OSG President Ben Blaser leads a student government meeting last September in Reeve.

skills, tool box and resume. It’s also a fantastic way to get involved on campus on your own terms.”

Blaser, who will not run for another term because he graduates in May, said he wants his presidency to be remembered by all of the changes that he proposed and passed last semester.

“We were able to rename OSA to OSG to better reflect what the body does,” Blaser said. “We were also able to transform the assembly into a set of town halls, which resulted in more student participation.”

Established in 1959, OSG aims to help students with issues and policies for both academic and non-academic concerns. OSG is in charge of recognizing student organizations and helping clubs with budgets, travel and other costs.

Klaver said he urges students to participate in OSG because that students can only elect leaders if there are people interested in running for positions.

“Please consider OSGs opportunities and apply for candidacy or nudge a friend or classmate who you think could do a good job

serving to think about running,” Klaver said.

OSG meetings are held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in Reeve Memorial Union.

Crime Corner

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

The Wisconsin State Patrol arrested a Wautoma man in Oshkosh Sunday for his fourth offense of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

A state trooper saw the man, Thomas Schneider, driving impaired and speeding at 2:41 a.m. Sunday on Highway 44 at West Fourth Avenue and conducted a routine traffic stop.

The 54-year-old driver told the state trooper that he had consumed alcohol before driving and proceeded to refuse to take a sobriety test.

Because it was the suspect’s fourth OWI, he was placed under arrest and taken into custody. The suspect refused to consent to a blood draw, and a warrant was obtained to perform the procedure. The suspect was booked into the Winnebago County Jail and has a probation hold.

Sports



Owen Larsen / Advance-Titan

(Left) Kacy Tesch hoists the WCC trophy with his team after the game on Feb. 17. (Right) Head Coach Dom Pfister cuts down the net after UWO FDL's victory.

UWO-FDL program ends on top

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

On Oct. 17 it was announced that the spring semester would be the last for the UW Oshkosh Fond du Lac campus, meaning this season would be the last for the UWO-FDL basketball team.

Men's basketball is one of two sports played at UWO-FDL, along with women's volleyball. The eight-man UWO-FDL Falcons made the most of their last season with the program.

With a dominating regular season, the Falcons had found themselves with a record of 12-1 in

the Wisconsin Collegiate Conference and a 17-4 overall, clinching themselves a spot in the WCC championship game for their last game in program history on Feb. 17.

As for the game itself, UWO-FDL controlled the first half heading into the break up 47-40. They picked up the pace in the second half, keeping the pedal to the metal until the final buzzer finishing with a 99-78 victory, clinching the WCC title.

Falcons guard Ja'Shawn Forester had a dunk in the final minute of the game to help put a stamp on the victory, resulting in

a technical foul for Forester, but more notably, elation for UWO-FDL.

"Words can't even explain," Forester said. "[The closing of the Fond du Lac campus] star-struck us a little bit but once you realize the bigger picture of why you're here you just put that to the side."

Making his third championship appearance in three years as head coach, Dom Pfister was proud of how his players handled this season's adversity.

"It's bittersweet," Pfister said. "They gave us one last year to do our thing, and we fought. We

went out on top, that's what it's supposed to be like. They stepped up, they could've shied away from it but they've been dogs all year. I'm proud of them."

The Falcons were led by their 7'4" center, Chandler Batchelor, throughout the season. While he was excited for Saturday's victory, he did share that he has been preparing for next season as well, trying to connect with other schools.

"We didn't fall back and get sad — we rised to the occasion and we are a great team on and off the court," Batchelor said. "I'm sending out film right now,

I'm visiting some schools, hopefully I go to the school that gets me to the next level."

Falcons assistant coach Moe Craine, who has spent the past three seasons on Pfister's staff, said he was amazed by how his guys performed this season.

"I can't even begin to explain how proud I am of these guys," Craine said.

He said they faced other adversities in the beginning of the season, including losing a key player.

"Every time we got knocked down we got right back up," he said.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics

UWO's Emily Buffington approaches the vault. Buffington scored a 38.475 all-around score on Feb. 16

Gymnastics remains unbeaten

By Owen Larsen
larsenow07@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh gymnastics team faced off against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 16 and came away with a 194.025-189.575 victory.

The Titans broke their program record in the floor exercise with a score of 48.750, breaking their record of 48.675 which they set at Rutgers University (New Jersey) in January 2023.

Leading them in the floor was sophomore Reanna McGibboney with a score of 9.800. She was followed by junior Mia Lucero (9.775), freshman Jay Ratkowski (9.750) and junior Delany Cienkus (9.725).

The Titans achieved a higher score in all four events during the

meet, with the largest win being in the uneven parallel bars event with a 1.675-point margin.

The top four finishers for uneven parallel bars were all Titans. From first to fourth of sophomore Amaya McConkay, senior Kaylie Berens, junior Sam Zeilinger and sophomore Lydia Hayden

The vault event was the narrowest UWO win, with a .850-point margin, despite the top-four finishers all being from UWO. Lucero took first place for this event, followed by Anna Zorowski, Em-



McGibboney

ily Buffington and McConkay rounding out the top four.

UWO took the balance beam event by a .950 point margin. Hayden took first place in this event, scoring a 9.800.

Buffington was the only all-around performer for UWO. She totaled a 38.475-point all around score.

Buffington scored the highest all-around score from either school during the event.

The Titans continue their unbeaten head-to-head record for the season, moving to 5-0 in such events.

The Titans will face UW-White-water on Feb. 23 in another head-to-head meet at Kolf Sports Center.

UWO men's basketball loses on senior night

By Emily Buffington
buffie63@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men's basketball team fell to UW-Stevens Point on Feb. 17 69-64 in their final game of the season at Kolf Sports Center.

UWO seniors Will Mahoney, Nick Otto, Nick Spang and Quinn Steckbauer were all recognized before the game as the graduating 2024 class.

Mahoney led the Titans with 18 points and five rebounds. Carter Thomas followed with 10 points and four rebounds and Michael Metcalf-Grassman registered 11 rebounds and nine points.

The Titans (10-15, 3-11 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) shot 46.0% from the field, 38.1% from three, and 83.3% from the line, leading the Pointers (12-12, 6-7 WIAC) from the field and line.

UWO also led in bench points (19-9) and second chance points (5-2).

The Pointers went on a seven-point run to open the first half. Mahoney put the Titans on the board with a three-pointer followed by a pair of free throws.

The teams traded points for a majority of the half until a layup from UWO's Reed Gunnink was followed by another layup from Thomas to close the score gap.

Another layup from Mahoney tied the game up at 17-17. The Pointers went on another 8-0 spurt to gain the lead back. Thomas and Metcalf-Grassman each secured two free throws for the Titans. The half ended with a layup from Nick Kraftzenk, however the Titans remained down by 10.

The second half started with a three-pointer from the Pointers followed by a three-pointer from Thomas.

The Pointers went on a seven-point run to extend their lead over the Titans. Thomas responded with another three-pointer before the Pointers came back with four points.

Kraftzenk, Matt Imig and Metcalf-Grassman all secured three-pointers. The teams traded points before the Titans went on a seven-point spurt to shorten the score gap.

With three minutes left in the game, the Titans scored nine straight to make it a four-point game. The Pointers went on a 3-2 run and converted a free throw attempt with two seconds left to seal the game.

This season will be the first time since 2013 that the men's basketball team has missed the WIAC tournament.

Sports



Scoreboard

Friday, Feb. 16
Gymnastics
UWO - 194.025
UW-Eau Claire - 189.575

Saturday, Feb. 17
Men’s Basketball
UWO - 64
UW-Stevens Point - 69
Wrestling
WIAC Championships
UWO - 6th place
Women’s Track and Field
Titan Challenge
UWO - 1st place
Men’s Track and Field
Titan Challenge
UWO - 1st place
Men’s Swim and Dive
WIAC Championships
UWO - 5th place
Women’s Swim and Dive
WIAC Championships
UWO - 4th place

Upcoming Events

Thursday, Feb. 22
Gymnastics
UW-La Crosse & UW-Stout Triangular at 6 p.m. at Kolf Sports Center
Baseball
at Milwaukee School of Engineering at 4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 23
Women’s Basketball
WIAC Championship (if UWO wins Wednesday)
vs. UW-Stout/UW-Whitewater at 7 p.m. at Kolf Sports Center
Track and Field
NCAA Indoor Championships 10 a.m. at UW-Whitewater

Saturday, Feb. 24
Track and Field
NCAA Indoor Championships 11:30 a.m. at UW-Whitewater
Softball
vs. Lakeland University at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. at UWO Rec Plex
Baseball
at Milwaukee School of Engineering at 2 p.m.

A-Trivia

Who is ranked 2nd behind UWO in the WIAC standings?

Answer: UW-Whitewater

A-Trivia

What college did MLB outfielder Daulton Varsho attend?

Answer: UW-Milwaukee. Varsho is a native of Marshfield, Wisconsin.



Courtesy of UWO Athletics
Bridget Froehlke (right) congratulates Kennedy Osterman after a play versus UW-La Crosse. The two scored a combined 33 points.

Titans claim 15th WIAC title

By Nolan Andler
andlern63@uwosh.edu

With the wins over UW-La Crosse and UW-Stevens Point last week, the UW Oshkosh women’s basketball team not only earned the 15th Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference regular season title in program history, they also clinched the No. 1 seed for the WIAC tournament.

As the team now shifts their attention to postseason play, it doesn’t come without remembrance for how they got here.

Senior Kayce Vaile credits the work ethic the team had for why they are here.

“Everyone puts in the work each day, and we raise the bar to get better each day,” she said. “We look at any player on our team and say they are ready to go out and make an impact in the game.”

Sophomore Avery Poole credits the success of the season for how close the team is on and off the court.

“We are truly a family, and everyone on the team is there to support each other no matter what is

going on, she said, “Beyond the support that we have for each other, we have a lot of fun and that is what brings us together on and off the court.”

The tightness of the group showed in the biggest win of the season for the Titans.

After falling short to the UW-Whitewater Warhawks at Kolf Sports Center earlier in the season, the Titans were able to respond with a 57-46 win at UW-Whitewater on Jan. 31 behind a 14-point game from senior Kennedy Osterman.

The win over the Warhawks was not only the Titans first win at UWW since 2021, but it was also what gave Titans the one game advantage in the WIAC regular season standings.

The Titans start their run in the WIAC tournament as the No. 1 seed on Feb. 21 as they will face off against UW-La Crosse in the semifinal round.

The Titans swept the Eagles in the regular season, winning 68-56 at La Crosse on Jan. 17, and most recently 64-55 on Feb. 14 at Kolf Sports Center.

If the Titans got a victory against the Eagles, they will host the championship game on Friday night against the winner of the UW-Stout versus UW-Whitewater game.

If the Titans won their game on Wednesday they will have home court advantage for the WIAC championship game.

“By hosting, we will have our fan base filling in the gym,” Poole said. “Being comfortable in our own gym and having a crowd full of people there to support us will translate our energy on the court.”

Vaile said the Titans realize that they will just need to continue to play quality basketball throughout the tournament.

“We just need to keep getting better every day we get the chance to, and we aren’t gonna let that chance slip away,” she said.

The Titans first game of the WIAC tournament against UW-La Crosse was Wednesday night. Check the results of the game on the UWO athletics website.

Women’s Basketball Season Leaders

Points per game:

Kennedy Osterman (Sr.) 11.2
Kayce Vaile (Sr.) 10.5
Bridget Froehlke (Jr.) 9.8

Assists per game:

Kennedy Osterman (Sr.) 2.5
Kate Huml (So.) 2.0
Sarah Hardwick (So.) 2.0

Rebounds per game:

Kayce Vaile (Sr.) 8.1
Sarah Hardwick (So.) 4.5
Kennedy Osterman (So.) 4.5

Steals per game:

Kennedy Osterman (Sr.) 2.3
Kayce Vaile (Sr.) 1.7
Sarah Hardwick (So.) 1.0

Minutes per game:

Kennedy Osterman (Sr.) 30.8
Sarah Hardwick (So.) 27.6
Bridget Froehlke (Jr.) 25.3

UWO women’s basketball WIAC regular season titles

2024: 21-4 (12-2)	2006: 19-8 (12-4)	1998: 26-2 (16-0)	1992: 18-6 (13-3)
2021: 9-2 (9-2)*	2004: 21-6 (13-3)	1996: 31-0 (16-0)	1991: 21-5 (14-2)
2019: 26-4 (12-2)	2001: 19-6 (12-4)	1995: 28-3 (14-2)	1985: 18-8 (7-2)*
2017: 26-4 (13-1)	1999: 27-2 (15-1)*	1994: 24-3 (14-2)	*Tournament Champs

Sports

Titans break 10 school records

By Angela Satterlee
sattea08@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh swim and dive Titans had their 2024 Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference meet last week. The meet was hosted in Brown Deer at the UW-Milwaukee Schroeder Aquatic Center. The UWO Titans, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Whitewater, UW-La Crosse and UW-Eau Claire competed at the event.

The event lasted four days and within that time UWO broke 10 school records. Seven relay records were broken, including the men’s 200 medley relay, 400 medley relay, 400 freestyle relay and the women’s 200 medley relay, 800 freestyle relay, 400 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay. Three individual records were broken; the women’s 100 freestyle record was broken and the 200 freestyle record was broken twice.

The women placed fourth out of five teams with 466 points, scoring the highest they have since 2005.

The women’s 400 freestyle relay broke the school record with a time of 3:33.56 and placed third. Francesca Schiro led off the relay with a 51.30, breaking her own 100 freestyle record and making the NCAA last cut. She was followed by Amanda Richards, Brianna Smith and Cadence Showalter.

Abbi Priestley took first place overall in the 1-meter diving event with a score of 424.50 points. In the 3-meter event she also made the podium, placing sixth overall with 398.40 points.

Schiro broke her own 200 freestyle record twice. The first time in prelims she went 1:52.93 and in finals she went 1:52.80, taking first place and making that time the



Oshkosh’s Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez swims in a meet earlier this season. He, along with CJ Willert, Damen Seremet and Drew Davis, broke UWO’s record for the men’s 200 medley at the WIAC championships in Brown Deer last weekend.

new school record for that event.

The women’s 200 medley relay took third. It was led by Richards, followed by Bella Cichon, Showalter and Schiro. Together, they set a new school record with a time of 1:47.96. The women’s 400 medley had the same order of swimmers and they crushed the old school record by over six seconds with a time of 3:54.25

The women’s 800 freestyle relay was another amazing race. They finished fourth overall with a new school record-breaking time of 7:47.36. Showalter led off, followed by Schiro, Smith and Brianna Wesenberg bringing it home.

Smith is the only senior on the women’s team and concluded her last swim season breaking two relay school records as well as having an impressive time of 18:09.49 in the 1650 freestyle, taking seventh overall in it.

“As a senior, I have never been more proud to be a part of this team,” Smith said. “This team is changing in a positive way as we have grown in numbers. ... I am so proud of everything we have accomplished as a team because it has shown that all of our hard work has paid off.”

The season isn’t over for Schiro, however, since she got an NCAA

cut she will continue to train until the meet on March 20.

The men placed fifth out of five teams with 235 points, an improvement from last year.

Men’s diver Glen Cole made the podium taking eighth place in the 3-meter diving event with a total of 331.90 points in prelims and 336.60 in finals.

The men’s 200 medley relay led off with CJ Willert, followed by Damen Seremet, Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez and Drew Davis. The team broke the old record by nearly a second with a total time of 1:36.47.

“I expected to break the [200

medley relay] record because we had broken it before,” Davis said. “And I’m really proud of all my boys.”

The men’s 400 medley relay record was broken by Alex Ward, Seremet, Ramirez-Gutierrez and Davis in a time of 3:32.67.

The men’s 400 freestyle relay was destroyed by almost three seconds with a time of 3:09.87. The relay order was Ramirez-Gutierrez, Davis, Chase Millam and Seremet. That record hadn’t been broken in five years.

Titan wrestling places sixth in WIAC championship

By Emily Buffington
buffie63@uwosh.edu

The UW Oshkosh men’s wrestling team’s sixth place finish at the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championship on Feb. 17 was led by a fifth-place finish from Guyon Cyprian Jr.

In the 285-pound class, Cyprian Jr. took a bye in the first round and pinned Blake Flach from UW-Stevens Point in the second round. He was then defeated by Sloan Welch of UW-Eau Claire by pin. He moved on to face Koeppel from UW-Whitewater but was taken down by a 2-1 decision. He then faced Flach again and took fifth place with an 11-3 major decision.

UWO’s JP Culver received a bye in the first round of the 125-pound class and moved on to be pinned by Izzy Balsiger of UW-Eau Claire. In the consolation bracket, he received another first round bye before being defeated by Chris Karbash of UW-Platteville.

In the 133-pound bracket, Oshkosh’s JoJo Mendoza was pinned

in the first round by Tyler Goebel of UW-La Crosse and moved on to receive a bye in the first round of the consolation bracket. He defeated Wyatt Willey of UW-Platteville by a 11-8 decision before losing to Riese Thornberry of UW-Stevens Point by fall.

UWO’s Joey Spizzirri was beaten in the first round of the 165-pound competition after a 15-0 technical fall to Tristan Massie of UW-Eau Claire. He moved on to receive a bye and was pinned in the second round by Mason Hoopman of UW-Whitewater.

Oshkosh’s Gage Coppock participated in the 174-pound tilts where he received a bye first round and moved on to drop the match to Jared Stricker of UW-Eau Claire. Moving on, he received a bye in the first round of the consolation bracket and went on to medically forfeit against Camren Dennee of UW-La Crosse.

UWO’s Tyler Blanchard acquired a bye in the first round of the 184-pound class where he moved on to be defeated by 17-1 technical fall to Marcus

Orlandoni of UW-La Crosse. He moved on to be pinned by Cal Ries of UW-Platteville. Also in the 184-pound class, Oshkosh’s Michael Loger defeated Rise by a 5-2 decision before being defeated by Connor Collins of UW-Eau Claire by fall.

Receiving a bye in the first round of the 197-pound competition, Oshkosh’s Matt Hanke was defeated by Ben Kawczynski of UW-La Crosse by a 17-2 technical fall. Hanke moved over to receive a bye before losing by a 10-1 major decision to Logan Neitzel of UW-Stevens Point.

In the 285-pound matches, UWO’s Camden Harms picked up a bye in the first round and moved on to be pinned by Michael Douglas of UW-La Crosse. He went on to be defeated by Cadin Koeppel of UW-Whitewater by fall.

Hanke was announced as part of the 2024 All-Sportsmanship team.

The Titans will return to participate in the NCAA Division III Upper Midwest Regional on March 1 hosted at UW-Stevens Point.

UWO swim and dive records broken at 2024 WIAC meet

Women’s 200 medley relay: Broken by Amanda Richards, Bella Cichon, Cadence Showalter, Francesca Schiro **(1:47.96).**

Women’s 400 freestyle relay: Broken by Francesca Schiro, Amanda Richards, Brianna Smith, Cadence Showalter **(3:33.56).**

Women’s 400 medley relay: Broken by Francesca Schiro, Amanda Richards, Brianna Smith, Cadence Showalter **(3:54.25).**

Women’s 800 freestyle relay: Broken by Cadence Showalter, Francesca Shiro, Brianna Smith, Brianna Wesenberg **(7:47.36).**

Women’s 200 freestyle: Broken twice by Francesca Schiro **(1:52.93), (1:52.80).**

Women’s 100 freestyle: Broken by Francesca Schiro **(51.30).**

Men’s 200 medley relay: Broken by CJ Willert, Damen Seremet, Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez, Drew Davis **(1:36.47).**

Men’s 400 medley relay: Broken by Alex Ward, Damen Seremet, Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez, Drew Davis **(3:32.67).**

Men’s 400 freestyle relay: Broken by Leo Ramirez-Gutierrez, Drew Davis, Chase Millam, Damen Seremet **(3:09.87).**

College student exposes jet-setting celebs

By Cassidy Johnson
johnsonca51@uwosh.edu

Most college students wouldn't dream of tracking — nevertheless posting — a celebrity's jet for fear of legal consequences, but Jack Sweeney, an Information Technology student at the University of Central Florida, dreamed it and did it.

As many people know, Taylor Swift has been on her Eras Tour since early November of last year, and will be touring for nearly two years. As fans of football and Swift both know, she has also been dating the Kansas City Chiefs' tight end Travis Kelce around the same time she started her tour.

Obviously she has a busy schedule, and if you're touring all around the world to over 150 different shows and cities, a private jet does make sense. However, it should not replace all travel; private jets are a luxury, not a necessity.

Sweeney has a history of tracking celebrities' jets and posting them on a variety of social media platforms, including the current owner of X/Twitter himself, Elon Musk. Ironically, despite buying Twitter mainly to protect the free speech within the app, Musk deleted Sweeney's account for fear of his own personal safety.

While personal safety is absolutely something to be protected, especially for those who are constantly in the public eye, this type of censorship does bring freedom of speech into question. Moreover, it ques-

tions if the line for free speech is drawn by personal biases.

Sweeney's more recent victim, however, is Taylor Swift. In late December 2023, Sweeney was sent a cease and desist order from Swift's legal team for tracking and posting her private jet trips on an Instagram account. Like Musk, her team argued for violation of safety.

While I both understand that this can pose a threat to celebrities' safety and disagree with posting this information right after, data on these jet flights are all public record on the government's Federal Aviation Administration and can be accessed by anyone.

Sweeney responded to this cease and desist not by backing down, but instead by posting the jet trips a day later. While some may view this as impertinence, I actually find it quite clever. Unfortunately, this only lasted a short time before the account was suspended.

You may have seen a few social media posts joking about Swift using her private jet, dubbing captions like "Taylor when her charger is on the other side of the bed" in reference to her infamous 28-mile flight popularized by the college student's jet-tracking Instagram account.

While the jokes are funny, the amount of carbon dioxide emissions released for what could've been less than a 40-minute drive aren't funny at all. While Sweeney's account was still up, he noted that she would

need to "plant more than 2,200 trees" in order to make up for the amount of CO2 emissions released from three months worth of her jet flights.

According to a Swift spokesperson, Taylor bought "more than double the carbon credits needed to offset all tour travel" before her tour began last year.

The same cannot be said, however, for many other celebrities such as Jay-Z, Blake Shelton, and Kim Kardashian, who are also frequent jet-setters with insane CO2 emission contributions. Shelton, for example, took a 27-minute flight in which he didn't even leave the state of California.

While I strongly discourage stalking, I don't think that was Sweeney's goal. Based on the commentary that was paired with these reports, I believe the UCF undergrad was doing this to bring attention to celebrities' careless and thoughtless use

of their beloved private jets despite the overwhelming (and well-known) evidence of the en-

viron-

mental damage it causes.

Even Leonardo DiCaprio, who has spoken at

the UN on the problem of climate change a few times, is a frequent jet-setter himself.

This is not me encouraging any of you to start your own jet-tracking social media accounts, but with the recent controversy surrounding Swift's 28-mile flight and its environmental implications, I'd say Sweeney's work here is done.

Even though both original accounts tracking Musk's and Swift's jets have been suspended, Sweeney has brought to question the morality of celebrities by exposing their careless jet usage, and has raised awareness for it by bringing this information into the social sphere via Instagram, X and Facebook. Some sources say that he's still creating accounts on a variety of different social media platforms such as Threads, but his previous work has already got a conversation going.

Sweeney has created public discourse about free speech and privacy by both pushing the boundaries and by getting his accounts suspended despite posting already public information, making us wonder if these accounts were truly a violation of privacy, or just a violation of their egos.

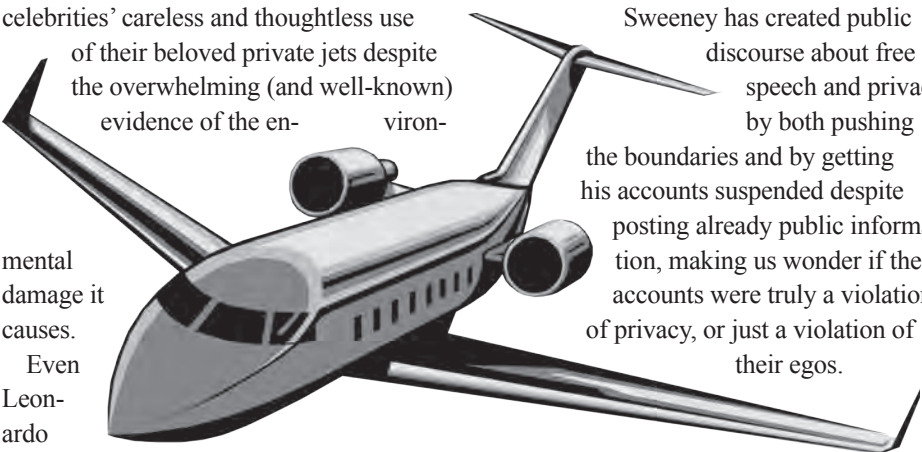


Illustration:
WannaPik

Letter to the Editor



Residential parking inconveniences commuters

By Dakota Morin
morind38@uwosh.edu

Residential students have been underutilizing the new residential parking initiative and the initiative is a persisting inconvenience for commuter students.

Over the last 3 years as a commuter, parking

has been a difficult task even with a permit. It is competitive and abused by those without permits.

I have noticed over the last three weeks that lot #17, which is newly a resident-only parking lot, is almost empty at all times of the day.

Also, the resident-only rows in lot #34 are mostly

empty at all times of day. I have personally been affected by struggling for parking and have heard fellow commuter students who are also struggling for parking, resulting in parking on the street when they pay good money to use the parking lots.

I strongly recommend that the UWO Parking

Services monitor the use of these residential parking lots and adjust to what is actually needed for resident and commuter students.

I have attached photos of lot #17 at 1 p.m. today, Feb. 20th, 2024. This is what it looks like at almost all times of the day every day.

Letter guidelines

The Advance-Titan welcomes and reads all letters. Timely, well-written, provocative opinions on topics of interest at UW Oshkosh are given first preference.

All letters are subject to editing; not all letters can be published. Letters exceeding 300 words may be edited at the discretion of the Advance-Titan staff. Name, position, address and daytime phone number are required, although only name and email will be published along with the article.

The Advance-Titan does not publish anonymous or open letters and letters printed elsewhere.

If your letter is chosen for publication, we may attempt to contact you for verification via email or phone. To submit your letter, email atitan@uwosh.edu.



“Whatcha Think?”

How are you doing on your 2024 goals so far?



Ashley Kopp, Freshman
“I didn’t have much of an idea about what I was going to do coming to college, but this semester, things have turned around. After getting a job and staying on a consistent schedule, I’ve been able to prove to myself I can find my passion.”



Willem Flaughter, Senior
“My 2024 goal was to make more time to spend with the people who mattered to me since I’m graduating in May. So far it’s going really well. I definitely have a busy schedule between three jobs and student teaching, but I’m always making time to get dinner and do activities with the people who played an important role in my life here.”



Jade Springer, Junior
“As the VP, I would like the UWO women’s rugby team to reach the competitive bracket of play in the Great Waters Conference. So far, it’s going pretty good. Since getting a new coach, we have a lot more structure and chemistry in practice that will hopefully translate into gameplay. I’ve started doing a lot of recruitment here and at the high schools to grow our numbers”



Joe Hertel, Junior
“I didn’t make one. I personally don’t like making new year’s resolutions because I believe that if you are going to do something for the betterment of yourself, you shouldn’t wait for a random day to do that.”



Kelly Hueckman / Advance-Titan
UWO faculty senators vote in favor of officially supporting an outline of requests for Chancellor Leavitt and Provost Martini in a meeting held in September 2023.

Vote of no confidence: Worth it?

By Jacob Link
linkj13@uwosh.edu

UW Oshkosh staff and faculty members have circulated a letter addressed to Faculty Senate President Pascale Manning for the past two weeks, asking the senate to draft a referendum of a no-confidence vote of Chancellor Andrew Leavitt’s leadership.

The petition featured nine main reasons why members of the faculty lack confidence in Leavitt’s ability to effectively lead UWO and want to schedule a faculty referendum regarding his job performance.

The points in the petition include Leavitt’s involvement in “substantial overspending of revenues” that led to the current budget deficit and staff layoffs; the failure to implement effective strategies to address enrollment declines; and a disregard for shared governance groups. Faculty and staff also mentioned that they were unhappy with Leavitt using a consulting firm, not faculty and staff, to determine layoffs.

A referendum of a vote of no confidence by the Faculty Senate would be largely symbolic since the UW Board of Regents is the only group with the authority to fire a Universities of Wisconsin chancellor.

While this vote does not directly have the power to remove Leavitt from his position, the Faculty Senate needs to draft a referendum that proposes a vote of no confidence even if it is just symbolic. A vote of no confidence would show not just students, but also the entire Universities of Wisconsin community, that changes need to be made in UWO’s leadership.

In the petition, staff and faculty at UWO said that while the university is strong, the top leadership is not.

“We are deeply invested in the

success of this institution and the quality of the education we provide,” the petition said. “Our purpose is to seek a beneficial change in management practices that will result in better decisions that emphasize educational quality and positive student outcomes. We take no joy in listing the failings of our current leadership.”

Staff and faculty said in the letter to Manning that last semester, they gave the administration the opportunity to meet a set of reasonable expectations for collaboration that were unanimously endorsed in the Faculty Senate.

“A top-down, opaque management style has persisted,” the letter said. “We make better decisions together and with full information. At such a critical juncture for our institution, we feel it is important to get a sense of the views of the whole faculty on our administrative leadership.”

In a statement to the Wisconsin State Journal responding to the petition, Leavitt said that UWO is on the right path and that his focus remains on closing the university’s budget gap.

“That deficit has been driven by a perfect storm of changing demographics, adverse enrollment trends and rising costs disrupting so many higher education institutions,” Leavitt said. “We chose to face our challenge head on while shielding students’ programs and experiences as best we could. It required historically difficult decisions last year, painful to [UWO’s] people.”

If staff and faculty officially sign off on a document that questions Leavitt’s leadership ability, that tells current and future UWO students that the administration is in disarray. That could cause enrollment to fall even lower than it already has. (Enrollment dropped by 1.7% at the beginning of the fall 2023 semester.) If enrollment drops even more than

it has, then the university will find it a lot harder to climb itself out of the \$18 million hole UWO is already in.

If the faculty did vote that they have no confidence in the chancellor’s leadership abilities, that would lead to even more bad press for the university in the wake of the deficit and budget cuts. The vote would surely catch the eye of the Universities of Wisconsin President Jay Rothman, who could bring this to the attention of the Board of Regents to review Leavitt’s job performance. If UWO students turn against the chancellor, which many already have, there could be a compelling case that if students, faculty and staff all question his authority, then it may be time to move on to someone new.

There has never been a UWO chancellor who was fired by the Board of Regents in the 153 years the university has existed. Realistically, unless he did something illegal or made the wrong people mad, there would be a very slim chance that Leavitt would get fired. But there always is the possibility that he would resign if enough faculty, staff and students turned on him.

In 1978, UWO Chancellor Robert Birnbaum resigned after four years at the university when students, faculty and staff became highly critical of his administration. Similar to Leavitt’s last few years in charge of the University, UWO saw a declining enrollment in the mid-1970s and the UW System faced budgeting problems during a major recession. We’ve seen something very similar to this happen almost 50 years ago, so there may be a chance that history repeats itself and a UWO chancellor steps down after pressure from constituents.

All in all, it is important for the Faculty Senate to draft a referendum proposal of a no-confidence

vote, even if it is largely symbolic. The only way for faculty, staff and students to see action taken against the current administration is to keep pushing for change. Whether that be protests, letters or something else, if the people of UWO continue to push back against the leadership at the university, someone will have to budge, and it doesn’t look like the faculty and staff will be stopping the push for change anytime soon.

While a referendum for a vote of no confidence may generate somewhat of a poor reputation for UWO, it’s extremely important for staff, faculty and students to participate in civic engagement. Even Rothman spoke out last fall about the dangers of avoiding difficult conversations on campus.

“If we aren’t courageous enough to simply address these issues head-on, understanding that we need to listen and compromise, I don’t know where we end up,” Rothman said at a panel on student engagement. “We deserve better than that and we have to do better.”

It is the duty of faculty, along with staff and students, to hold the university accountable. As an academic institution, UWO needs to be held to a certain standard, and if many people feel this standard is not met, action needs to be taken.

There is expected to be more than the 10% of faculty and staff signatures necessary for the petition to make its way in front of the Faculty Senate to draft the referendum proposal of a no-confidence vote. Sources told the Advance-Titan that the Senate is expected to present the draft of the referendum proposal at the next meeting on Feb. 27.