

# ***Wichita State University***

## **Student Government Association**

### **59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Student Senate**

**TITLE: R-59- Vote Of No Confidence In Wichita State University President John Bardo**

AUTHOR(S): Remy Que

SPONSOR(S): Pam Saenz  
Colton Hall  
Khristian Jones  
Andrea Luque  
Carolyn Fugit

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WHEREAS the president of the institution is selected by the Kansas Board of Regents to effectively lead Wichita State University and accurately represent the student body, faculty, and staff; and

WHEREAS according to the Kansas Board of Regents' bylaws and policies from Chapter Two, Section C, Article Two, Subsection a.ii.1, it is quoted the following: "The chief executive officers of the state universities lead and manage complex institutions that are crucial to the state's future. The chief executive officers must be outstanding academic leaders, assure sound business practices and act as good stewards of public funds, raise the philanthropic gifts necessary to foster excellence in higher education, and serve as their respective university's primary spokesperson in their communities, in the state, and in the nation."; and

WHEREAS the mission of Wichita State University is "to be an essential educational, cultural, and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good," and this is best achieved by prioritizing students; and

WHEREAS the vision of Wichita State University is "internationally recognized as the model for applied learning and translational research," and "that everyone at Wichita State University can state what each student will be able to accomplish in terms of applied learning or translational research."; and

WHEREAS Wichita State University's Strategic Goal 5 is to "Empower students to create a

campus culture and experience that meets their changing need;” to which students have had to do given the focus by University leadership towards Innovation Campus and private business and the lack of support towards student issues; and

WHEREAS the President of Wichita State University and his administration have failed to adhere to shared governance of the institution with appropriate student representation; and

WHEREAS according to a lawsuit against the university, the administration, including allegedly actively covered up at least two rapes committed by male athletes, one of whom was a female athlete. Articles in the Wichita Eagle and The Sunflower and other media outlets found that a rape was reported to university police shortly in the newly built Shocker Hall dorms, but no action was taken against the rapist even though the victim knew him; and

WHEREAS according to a series in The Sunflower, a female victim of domestic violence, allegedly asked the administration, including the then director of Title IX enforcement, to enforce a protection from abuse order, among other legal requests, but was denied her rights; she was not allowed to go outside the university for assistance in the matter, according to directives given to her by administration. she ultimately dropped out; and

WHEREAS the university has incentive to under-report sexual violence: the Kansas Board of Regents decrease university funding based, in part, on the reported number of campus sexual assaults. Sexual assault is a major problem in university campuses, yet President Bardo has not created an environment of enforcement of laws regarding sexual assaults nor an environment of protecting victims; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed Black students who are below the 2016 University GPA average of 3.03 with an average of a 2.66 GPA, which is in comparison to their white counterparts who have an average of 3.09; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed Black students who on average are significantly higher on loan withdrawals with 73.0% of Black students requiring the use of loans as opposed to a University average of 55.6%; and

WHEREAS according to the Campus Climate survey on LGBTQ issues on Wichita State’s campus done in Spring of 2015, transgender students compared to LGB students feel the least comfortable or safe in various spots on campus, the Rhatigan Student Center being the specific place where they feel the most uncomfortable or unsafe

expressing their identity; and

WHEREAS the survey found that of the transgender students who responded to the survey, over 60% of them felt uncomfortable or unsafe expressing their identity around professors or advisors and in the classroom; and

WHEREAS the Campus Pride Index, a national evaluator of universities on LGBTQ issues, rates Wichita State's LGBTQ Support and Institutional Commitment at two out of five stars; and

WHEREAS the Campus Pride Index rates the University's LGBTQ Academic Life at one and a half stars out of five; and

WHEREAS the Campus Pride Index rates the University's LGBTQ Recruitment and Retention Efforts at two out of five stars; and

WHEREAS the President of Wichita State University and his administration have shown resistance to provide sufficient student representation on the President's Diversity Council with only one student sitting on the council as heavily requested by students; and

WHEREAS the Administration has failed to collect accurate data on student opinions as seen in the failure to include a diverse background of students in the diversity climate survey of which 89% of respondents identified as heterosexual/straight, 70% identified as white, 88% being naturalized citizens, and 57% being Christian; and

WHEREAS the President of Wichita State University and his administration have stifled Student Government Association's role in providing a channel of communication between the administration and students. Such examples include prohibiting the Association President to sit in during the meeting between President Bardo and DACA students in January and on the meeting between President Bardo and Muslim students in March; and

WHEREAS the Administration has disenfranchised religious students, non-religious students, and non-Christian students by consistently disregarding student proposals and requests for increasing accessibility and institutional recognition of Grace Memorial Chapel as an Interfaith Prayer Space, in accordance with the donor's wishes; and

WHEREAS the Administration has failed DACA students by showing little financial support for their college tuition and protection of their status as a student and

member of this University; and

WHEREAS there was a lack of transparency by the Administration in signing the Pomona Document in December but failing to promote this until February; and

WHEREAS the President of Wichita State University and his Administration have also failed to maintain transparency in regards to the YMCA proposal and a commitment to students over private business; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed by obtaining unrepresentative and inaccurate data corroborating students' thoughts and opinions on proposed plans to construct the YMCA and the contract for The Flats through misguided and biased measurements; and

WHEREAS, Vice President of Strategic Communications Lou Heldmen said a new wellness center has been part of the Innovation Campus Master Plan since the beginning even though the 2014 original plan, available for public viewing, discusses renovating the Heskett Center; Heldman said WSU has been in talks with the YMCA since 2014 though the campus at large only became aware of it in March of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed by expecting students to discuss, debate, and vote on a decision to increase the student fee by \$7.75 per credit hour in the matter of two weeks with little information, detail, or knowledge on the proposal itself; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has failed by lying to the students that such a proposal would require approval on the March 1st, 2017 meeting of Student Government Association, of which failed on a vote of 7-26-2 on the March 8th, 2017 Senate meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Teri Hall has stated that such approval would no longer be needed by the President of the University to move to approve on; and

WHEREAS a motion of no confidence is defined by Robert's Rules of Order as a motion made when most of the members of a parliament or other organization say that they feel that their leader is no longer competent to lead; and

WHEREAS the sit-in on the 14th of March 2017 demonstrates the extreme measures students must engage with to get the attention of the administration; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED the 59th Session of Student Government Association on behalf of

students attending Wichita State University, submits a vote of no confidence in President John Bardo; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the 59th Session of Student Government Association respectfully requests that Wichita State University Faculty-Senate move to initiate a similar vote of no confidence on President John Bardo and Provost Anthony J. Vizzini; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be forwarded with respect to Dr. John Bardo, President of the University; Dr. Anthony J. Vizzini, Provost and Senior Vice President; Dr. Teri Hall, Vice President for Student Affairs; Christine Schneikart-Luebbe, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement and Dean of Students; Dr. Marche Fleming-Randle, the Assistant to the President for Diversity; The Faculty Senate of Wichita State University; The Wichita Eagle, the newspaper serving the Greater-Wichita Metropolitan area; and The Sunflower, the Student Newspaper of Wichita State University.

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**APPROVED:**

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Joseph Shepard

Student Body President

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Date

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Taben Azad

Student Body Vice President

President of the Senate

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Date

