



**University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point**  
**Student Government Association**

Room 52, Dreyfus University Center  
1015 Reserve St.  
Stevens Point, WI 54481

April 14, 2011

Subject: Open Letter Concerning Chancellor Patterson's Behavior  
From: Student Government Association leaders

To Whom This May Concern,

Yesterday, April 13, 2011, at a meeting between the Chancellor and Student Government to discuss our final document regarding students' role in Shared Governance at UWSP, Chancellor Patterson lashed out at a faculty member, SGA's Faculty Advisor Stephanie Alemán, for "staring at the ceiling." This happened at a point in the conversation where the Chancellor tried to declare that SGA's progress thus far was seen by the faculty as "shenanigans, I believe is the word they used." I asked him to confirm whether the faculty had adopted that stance as a resolution, or if this was the opinion expressed by one faculty member individually. I told him I knew numerous members of the faculty who had expressed their support for our segregated fee and student governance reforms, and that even some Faculty Senators were considering passing a resolution in support of UWSP students' rights. Moreover, the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate had reviewed and approved the document we were discussing, which still awaits the Chancellor's signature. To stress the point that the Chancellor's characterization of the faculty as universally contemptuous for the role of students in university shared governance, SGA Advisor Alemán expressed that she as a Faculty Senator did not share his views.

We'll be happy to provide a recording of the entire discussion at your request. The tone of the meeting from the beginning was personal and outright demeaning, but we most strongly feel offended by and opposed to the way in which our Faculty Advisor was treated.

"You're supposed to be advising them," said the Chancellor, as if her work for students (outside of her academic merit) was to be measured by how much Dr. Alemán follows his counsel when she advises Student Government. "Please do not chastise me like that, as a faculty member, in front of students," responded Dr. Alemán, "My responsibility is not to advise them on what to say or how to set policy." We feel this is further inappropriate because we know, as experienced student leaders, that Dr. Alemán's contributions to this university are truly incomparable.

We understand that as we all were leaving the meeting, the Chancellor whispered to Dr. Alemán to "get your dean and the provost; we need to have a meeting." This kind of behavior is appalling coming from someone who represents this entire university. His lashing out during the meeting was inappropriate in itself, and such intimidation is no way in which a human should treat another, regardless of their position or job title. It is especially because he speaks for all of us in this institution that such mean spirited and condescending behavior is unacceptable.

That is not how we treat each other at UWSP. We ask for a public apology from the Chancellor for his denigrating public demeanor and condemn in the strongest terms such behavior. You are receiving this letter because you, as a member of the faculty and academic staff, are the backbone of this institution. Faculty and staff, students and administration are the three Shared Governance components in this institution, and we have to work collaboratively to build a positive, healthy and tolerant environment where debate never turns into intimidation.

We feel that the meeting Chancellor Patterson has called for is unjustifiably punitive, and would ask that this meeting does not take place. If such a meeting were to take place, we as her direct supervisors should have a seat at the table.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson – Student Body President  
Hans Schmid – Student Body Vice President  
Keith Techmeier – SGA Chief of Staff

Gregory Hartman – Multicultural & Diversity Issues Director  
Bin Xia – Speaker of the Senate  
Patrick Testin – Letters & Science Caucus Chair