

Minutes*

**Senate Consultative Committee
Thursday, September 20, 2012
3:00 – 4:30
Room 238A Morrill Hall**

Present: Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (chair), Angela Bartholomew, Peter Bitterman, Brandon Breuer, Nicole Conti, Chris Cramer, Harrison Defries, Will Durfee, Nancy Ehlke, Joe Inhofer, Russell Luepker, Adam Matula, Elaine Tyler May, Alon McCormick, James Pacala, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, Kimberly Simon, Moshe Volovik, Richard Ziegler

Absent: Avner Ben-Ner, James Cloyd, Ann Hagen, Amy Olson, Thomas Sondreal, Evan Vogel

Guests: none

Others: none

[In these minutes: (1) senate centennial; (2) docket approval; (3) visits from campus chancellors; (4) consultation matrix on Regents' policies]

1. Senate Centennial

Professor Kohlstedt convened the meeting at 3:00, called for a round of introductions, and began with a review of the events associated with the centennial of the Senate. She noted that a centennial committee appointed in May had identified five topics that would be discussed at three Senate meetings during the course of the year and had scheduled an additional meeting, a "conversation" about shared governance that would include the president, the provost, Regent Patricia Simmons, and Professor Fred Morrison that would take place on January 31.

2. University Senate Docket Approval

Professor Kohlstedt next reviewed the contents of the October 4 University docket. The Committee approved it unanimously.

3. Visits from Campus Chancellors

The Committee has in the past invited chancellors of the non-Twin Cities campuses to visit with it in the past; does it wish to resume the practice, Professor Kohlstedt asked? Committee members supported the proposal. Professor May suggested the conversations include a focus on increased collaboration among the campuses and that both the Committee and the chancellors bring specific questions to the meeting. Professor Cramer said the questions should also ask about governance and leadership on the campuses. Professor Bitterman said that the meetings should also focus on key issues, such as admissions and students' ability to move between campuses. Professor Kohlstedt said that she

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would contact the chancellors, including those at Crookston and Duluth (which campuses are not represented in the Senate because the faculty there have opted for collective bargaining) as well as at Morris and Rochester. She added that she would also ask about how the University might facilitate more face-to-face and department-to-department interactions among faculty members on the several campuses.

4. Consultation Matrix on Regents' Policies

Professor Kohlstedt next drew the attention of Committee members to a proposed revision of the matrix identifying which Regents' policies should be brought to which Senate committees for consultation when changes are being proposed. An ad hoc committee chaired by Professor Cramer reviewed the matrix in concert with individuals from the Board of Regents' office and made the recommendations. Ultimately these are Board policies, she said, but they wish to take suggestions from Senate committees as changes are considered.

Professor Ratliff-Crain asked if there is any controversy about the matrix. There is not, Professor Cramer said; the ad hoc committee approached the revision with an eye to streamlining the process. With some policies more than one committee had been identified as appropriate for consultation; the ad hoc committee recommends reducing the number of committees involved in some cases. The consultative committees are often the last stop because they usually bring the broadest view; the usual consultation path is one subject-matter committee and then review by the appropriate consultative committee(s).

Professor Kohlstedt noted that some of the policies have been moved to the consultative committees for comment; Professor McCormick added that the consultative committees can also decide if the changes proposed are significant enough that they warrant referral to a subject-matter committee for further discussion. Professor Cramer concurred. Professor Hancher inquired if there are policies not being referred to the consultative committees that they should see; there are not, Professor Cramer responded.

This matrix represents the Board reaching out to the governance system, Professor Cramer said, something it would not have to do. It represents the Board asking for advice. The matrix is not a formal document requiring Senate or Board approval; it is an informal guide to consultation.

The Committee voted unanimously to endorse the matrix.

Professor Kohlstedt adjourned the meeting at 3:40.

-- Gary Engstrand

