

[In these minutes: Reports, Senate Reorganization, Duties of the Student Senate Mentors, 2003-04 Chair Election]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

MAY 1, 2003

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Judy Berning, (chair), Jim Kanten, Kari Lindeman, Ryan Osero, Nathan Saete, Eric Steinhoff, Tom Walsh, Dan Weiske.

GUESTS: Danielle Stuard.

1. REPORTS

CHAIR

Judy Berning thanked all members for their service and input this year. Next year's committee will need to follow-up on the Senate reform, the SSCC Task Force recommendations, and schedule a retreat in August.

STUDENT SENATE CHAIR

Ryan Osero thanked everyone for the productive year and reminded members of the Crookston Chancellor interviews that are taking place.

SSCC/STUDENT SENATE CHAIR

Eric Steinhoff did not have a report but said that he enjoyed working with everyone.

MSA

Kari Lindeman said that the MSA SSCC elections will take place on May 6.

GAPSA

Tom Walsh said that the 2030-04 SSCC representative will be elected at the May 12 GAPSA meeting. Next year's GAPSA President is Todd Powell.

2. SENATE REORGANIZATION

Ryan Osero said that after the first meeting to discuss the reorganization proposal, he and Judy Berning had several initial concerns:

- Total membership of the University Senate and SCC
- For SCC there are 5 student associations/assemblies, but only 4 seats on the proposal

- Committee reporting lines for CLE, SCEP, SCFP, and Research since these issues affect the entire University
- Reporting line for SCSA should be the same as SCFA

Members made the following comments:

- Re-evaluate the purpose for the University Senate: faculty voice with some other input or equal representation for all groups
- SCC should have at least 5 students
- Vice Chair of Senate should not automatically be a faculty member
- CAPA and Civil Service should each have 25 seats and students should receive 75
- No other institutions have the same level of involvement for their students
- In this proposal, students would lose 8 seats, or drop from 25% to 20% of the total
- Students should not lose Senate seats just so that faculty can maintain the majority
- Proportionality should not be a key factor for determining SCC composition
- Faculty need to realize that students have a long history of almost equal representation on SCC
- Bigger colleges will lose more representation under this proposal

Q: Why are there more faculty seats in the Senate?

A: Faculty have a long-term vested interest in the University and think they should have more say because of this interest.

In conclusion, the committee agreed that the University Senate could have a fixed number, but that they should be apportioned 125 faculty, 75 students, 25 CAPA, and 25 Civil Service. For SCC, students should retain at least 6 seats.

3. DUTIES OF THE STUDENT SENATE MENTORS

Members suggested that the duties of the Student Senate mentors should be to: 1) Attend the April Senate meeting, 2) Attend the Fall Orientation, and 3) Be available via phone or email for fall semester. The Student Senate Chair should be the person who steers senators to a mentor. These duties were then approved.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Judy Berning said that at the April Senate meeting the SSCC bylaw changes were approved, but the Constitution changes did not receive enough votes. An electronic ballot was done, but this still did not produce a positive outcome. Since many bodies did not elect SSCC representatives yet, she suggested postponing the 2003-04 SSCC Chair election and doing one of three things:

1. Have SSCC only recognize the bylaws and therefore not elect a separate chair

2. Hold a special election in a few weeks to elect the SSCC Chair, once all members have been named. SSCC/Student Senate Vice Chair can then be done via email by all senators.
3. Elect an interim SSCC Chair

Members then asked whether SSCC can violate its own bylaws and whether it should be acting on behalf of the Student Senate in these matters.

Members decided to hold a joint meeting from 6-7 pm on May 21 to elect the new SSCC Chair.

With no further business, Judy Berning thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate