

[In these minutes: Reports, Tuition and Graduation Rates, Reciprocity, Research Committee membership]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

FEBRUARY 28, 2002

[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: Khaled Dajani (chair), Judy Berning, Nick Cecconi, Trevor Ewanochko, Scott Ferguson, Chris Frazier, Anthony Heryla, Shawn Lavelle, Kari Lindeman, Matt McBlair, Ryan Osero, Jason Stingl.

REGRETS: Ryan Brux.

GUESTS: Dan Kelly, Patrick Pederson.

1. CLOSED SESSION

A closed session was held to discuss nominations to the University Services Vice President search, roles and responsibilities of SSCC members, and proposed changes to SSCC.

2. WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Scott Ferguson, SCEP representative, said that he has received a resolution from CSA on the proposed withdrawal policy. MCSA does not want to be included in any withdrawal policy that is approved.

Chris Frazier noted that there is a provision in the policy that each campus would determine their own policy since Duluth has special considerations because of the bargaining units.

Shawn Lavelle said that Duluth tabled a resolution until next week, but he will forward it for presentation at the next SCEP meeting.

The committee then discussed whether SSCC should write a resolution in addition to the separate ones from each campus assembly. It was decided that SSCC would write a statement supporting the issue approved separately on each campus, as well as noting advising problems that exist on the Twin Cities campus. The resolution will be sent to the committee by e-mail before it is forwarded to SCEP.

3. DISCUSSION OF TUITION AND GRADUATION RATES

Khaled Dajani distributed two statements from Senate committees and one comparison of Big

Ten school tuition and graduation rates. He asked if SSCC should also make a statement on this issue.

Q: Would a policy affect all campuses?

A: Each campus would still set their own minimum credit requirements and tuition rates.

Q: Is Senate approval needed?

A: No, the administration, with the approval of the Regents, sets tuition rates. The administration can also create policies to improve undergraduate graduation rates.

Coordinate campus members noted that while this policy seems to mostly affect the Twin Cities it would be harmful to not comment since there might be a residual affect for the coordinate campuses.

Khaled Dajani asked that each student assembly be consulted before the next SSCC meeting, at which time a decision will be made.

4. DISCUSSION OF RECIPROCITY

Khaled Dajani noted that this issue is being discussed by the state legislature. While there is not much that students can do, he wanted to provide an opportunity for discussion on the topic.

Committee members noted that this issue should be discussed at the next Student Senate meeting to urge students to talk to their legislators. SLC will also be consulted to see if a statement would be useful during their lobbying.

5. INCREASE IN RESEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Khaled Dajani stated that the faculty representation on the Research Committee was increased in the fall, and now the student representation needs to be looked at. He asked one of the current students on the committee for their thoughts on increased representation; this information was distributed to all members.

Q: Do graduate/professional or undergraduate students mostly serve on the committee?

A: This year there are two undergraduates and one graduate student. In the past the committee has been composed of mostly graduate/professional students.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Committee members need experience in research to fully participate
- Numbers of students should not be increased if attendance will not improve
- Subject matter is more pertinent to graduate/professional students but undergraduates should not be excluded

- Students should be found from the same subject areas as the faculty

The committee decided to ask the Research Committee to look into increasing the number of student representatives in light of the increase in faculty representatives, as well as whether spots should be allocated for graduate/professional students separate from undergraduate students.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

The committee informed Dan Kelly, MSA President, and Patrick Pederson, GAPSA President, that they have only received one application and asked if they had already made their nominations for the University Services Vice President search.

Patrick Pederson said that MSA and GAPSA will be forwarding one name together for the position within the next week.

The committee asked if they would consider accepting SSCC's one nomination into their pool; Patrick Pederson agreed.

Khaled Dajani reminded Twin Cities undergraduate students that candidate packets are now available to file for Senate positions for 2002-03. An e-mail will be sent to all current senators reminding them to file if they want to participate for another year.

With no further business, Khaled Dajani thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate