

[In these minutes: 2002-03 Chair Election, Students for ACA, 2002-03 Meeting Schedule, Reports, Statement on Roles and Responsibilities, Student Union Governance and Operations, Faculty Advisor, Credit for Committee Service, and 2002-03 Student Senate Budget]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

MAY 2, 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, Ryan Brux, Nick Cecconi, Christina Frazier, Yev Garif, Kelsi Holland, Shawn Lavelle, Kari Lindeman, Matt McBlair, Ryan Osero, Nate Saete, Eric Steinhoff, Jason Stingl, Tom Walsh.

REGRETS: Scott Ferguson.

ABSENT: Trevor Ewanochko, Anthony Heryla.

GUESTS: Denny Olsen.

1. 2002-03 SSCC CHAIR ELECTIONS

Judy Berning was elected SSCC Chair for 2002-03.

2. SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR THE 2002-03 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS

The committee voted to approve Lindsey Hillesheim for one position on next year's committee. Another interested student will be found to fill the other position.

3. 2002-03 MEETING SCHEDULE

Khaled Dajani said that next year's schedule was developed after taking several factors into consideration:

- Dan Feeny wants FCC meetings after SCC, so if SSCC wants to talk about issues first, it needs to meet before both other meetings
- SSCC meetings have been scheduled for the Student Senate docket deadlines
- Between SSCC and Student Senate meetings, there will be a meeting every other Thursday
- SSCC meeting time will be roughly the same time as the Student Senate meetings

Committee members then made the following comments:

- Can SSCC meetings start at 11:30?
- Some members have classes until 12:30
- Can SSCC meet after SCC?
- If SSCC meets after SCC, the faculty will have all the power
- Could SSCC and FCC have a staggered schedule?

Because of the number of questions, it was decided that the meeting schedule would be discussed with SCC before a final SSCC schedule is set.

4. REPORTS

CHAIR

Khaled Dajani thanked the members for a productive year. Issues for next year will include: stadium, search procedures, withdrawals, tuition, election timelines, and transition procedures for Student Senate leaders.

STUDENT SENATE CHAIR

Chris Frazier said that she attended last week's SLC meeting and voiced the concerns from the Student Senate meeting. A unanimous vote was then made to change the Student Senate Chair to a member of the advisory board for consultation on SLC matters.

SSCC/STUDENT SENATE VICE CHAIR

No report.

CROOKSTON

Matt McBlair said that Crookston students are watching the legislature regarding the Bede Hall renovation; funding has been see-sawing between inclusion and removal from the final project list.

DULUTH

Shawn Lavelle said that Duluth passed its bylaws and constitution. Next year's focus will be on governance for the student union. The 2002-03 SSCC representative will be elected May 5.

MORRIS

Ryan Brux reported that Morris will be moving to Division III athletics after a five year transition period. The impact of this change on the multiculturalism of the campus will need to be studied.

Last week there was a GLBT hate crime on campus. Some high school kids tried to run over a student. Charges were filed. This case will be brought to the city officials for resolution since it is a public relations problem.

Lastly, there is a protest from the recent elections. Many blank ballots were submitted and one student only won by one vote over a write-in candidate. The election commission has asked Student Services to overthrow the election decision and ask for a re-vote. The head of Student Services has forwarded the decision back to the election commission.

MSA

Judy Berning said that MSA is forming its committees for next year. The budget has been approved and Anthony was re-elected to SSCC for next year.

GAPSA

Chris Frazier said that GAPSA elections will be finished May 6. Next year's goal is to build a community for graduate and professional students.

SCSA

Jason Stingl reported that the SCSA held its last meeting of the year yesterday. Issues for next year will include: Coffman, hockey riots, student conduct code, health issues, a junior year experience, and international students. He said that there were problems with attendance this year and no one has been identified as next year's chair.

The Student Services Fee Subcommittee will also be meeting to discuss the controversies that arose on the Twin Cities campus during this year's fees process. No actions taken this year were against the rules, but some people felt that some practices were unethical. A code of conduct is being developed to govern this process.

SCSA

Scott Ferguson submitted the following report by e-mail:

- 1) W's are coming back. There are many options right now, but Craig Swan and his delegates feel that W's are a big part of graduation rates. SCEP is voting about what to do about them next week. The current sentiment is that there is good support for not doing anything about the W's until the 13 credit policy has been enforced.
- 2) International programs are doing well, but they did mention that there were more woman than men participating. They are currently looking at different insurance plans for the faculty that are leading the expeditions.
- 3) There is currently some arguments about campus computing. Apparently, there has been a drastic raise in the price of the software.

5. STATEMENT ON ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The proposed statement, revised following comments from members at the April meeting, was read.

Q: How can members serve a dual role?

A: First, members should voice the opinions that were expressed at their assembly, but the member does not solely represent that assembly. Members should also express minority opinions from the assembly or from under-represented groups.

Several friendly amendments were accepted and the statement was approved as amended.

6. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT UNION GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

Shawn Lavelle said that UMD is having problems with its student union and wanted to collect some information from this committee. Currently in Duluth, there is a director and a student board for the union. The director reports jointly to the student board and the Vice Chancellor, although the student board has no direct relationship to the Vice Chancellor. Does the system at the Twin Cities work well? What is the structure at the other coordinate campuses?

Matt McBlair said that Pam Holsinger-Fuchs runs Bede Hall and she reports to Vice Chancellor Bob Nelson. Any student concerns are forwarded to CSA for resolution.

Ryan Brux said that Vice Chancellor Sandy Olson-Loy is head of the Morris union. She has an advisory board, but it is mainly composed of faculty members, although she and the board are always open to student concerns.

Q: Is the union funded by student fees or by at-large funding?

A; Crookston's union receives some student fees money; Morris was not sure about funding.

Denny Olsen, Associate Director of the Twin Cities Student Unions, said that Maggie Towle, Director of the Twin Cities Student Unions, reports to the Assistant Vice Provost, who then reports to Vice President Robert Jones. The unions also have a Board of Governors to develop programming, budgets, and policies. This board works with the director and appoints advisory committees to further assist the director. Personnel and management issues are the responsibility of the director, not the board. Most students feel that they have significant input into this process at the Twin Cities.

Shawn Lavelle said that the Duluth union is fully-funded by the students, but students do not have any authority in how it is run. Nick Cecconi said that the issue is not the staff, but the current structure.

Denny Olsen then invited UMD students to attend a Board of Governors meeting next year.

7. FACULTY ADVISOR FOR THE STUDENT SENATE

Chris Frazier said that from her experience this year, she realized that students are not in governance long enough to learn the process and procedures to be effective. She felt that it was not the Senate staff's role to teach, advocate, or advise the students on how to be an effective leader for the system. Therefore, she proposed that an advisor be identified for next year's Student Senate.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Student Senate handbook should contain information on writing resolutions and statements
- Student Activities Office might be able to provide some advising
- If Student Activities Office provides advisor, then would SSCC need to be a registered student organization?
- If a faculty member is found, s/he cannot be a current senator
- Advisor needs to be familiar with the Senate
- Faculty member might not be right since they have a different culture from students

In conclusion, members noted that they were supportive of the effort, no matter which type of advisor is identified.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Ryan Osero said that the EVPP search finalists will be named soon. Interviews will then be conducted before the position is filled by July 1.

Khaled Dajani said that Prince Amattoe asked that SSCC discuss offering students credit for Senate committee service. He has not developed any formal plan, but would like this committee's thoughts on the proposal.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Who would oversee involvement and grading for this 'course'?
- Would committee service substitute for a class?
- Receiving credit is a poor excuse to become involved
- Faculty and students should serve as volunteers
- Students should view service as a valuable, out-of-class learning experience
- Service could be seen as an internship or independent study
- Would a paper be required following a student's term?
- Offering credit would skew the student voice
- Students could decide to participate without receiving credit
- Credit could be received by other means, such as the leadership minor program
- Would credit be available for graduate and professional students also?
- Would Committee on Committees give committee preference to students who do or do not receive credit for their service?

Shawn Lavelle then distributed the proposed Student Senate budget for 2002-03. Changes include not participating in the ABTS conferences, requesting funding for leadership development, holding the spring recognition after the final Student Senate meeting so that old and new senators are invited, and hosting three senator get-togethers next year.

The budget was then approved.

With no further business, Khaled Dajani thanked everyone for their service this year and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate