

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2009

[In these minutes: Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity as it relates to the TCF Bank Stadium, Fall 2010 Liberal Education Requirements Update]

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

PRESENT: Thomas Reynolds, co-chair, Olga Zakharenko, co-chair, Thomas Bilder, Andy Howe, Carlos Torelli, Adam Arling, Silvia Canelon, Megan Hines, Kristin O'Connor, Thomas Rozeske, Elizabeth Vose

REGRETS: Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte, Anthony Albecker, Joyce Holl, Miranda Kacer, Philip Mlaker

ABSENT: Nathan Pelzer, Christiane Bartels

OTHERS ATTENDING: Gabriele Schmiegel

GUESTS: Sharon Dzik - Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity and Laurel Carroll – Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

I). Professor Reynolds convened the meeting, welcomed those present and called for introductions.

II). Professor Reynolds welcomed Sharon Dzik, director, Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity who was invited to share information about student behavior-related matters at the new TCF Bank Stadium.

Ms. Dzik began by providing information about a new tool/sanction the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity is using if a student violates the alcohol portion of the conduct code at the Stadium. The tool is called Check B.A.C. and it requires students who were previously cited for alcohol use at the Stadium to show up at the next home game, and take a breath test. When these students return, they must meet the legal drinking limits for their age category in order to pass. Ms. Dzik reminded members that that alcohol is not permitted in the Stadium. She then went on to explain in detail what happens if a student gets cited by the police for alcohol use at the Stadium. Ms. Dzik noted that Check B.A.C. was modeled after the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Show and Blow program.

In terms of statistics, noted Ms. Dzik, 71 people have been ejected from the Stadium to date. Of these 71 people, 49 have been students. So far, of the students who have been required to Check B.A.C., three have failed the breath test.

Members' comments and questions included:

- Are students that are cited with a violation required to go to court? Ms. Dzik stated that this is a possibility, which varies from case to case.
- There should be significant consequences for alcohol-related behavior in order to effect a change. Out of the box thinking about how to educate students about responsible alcohol use needs to be a priority for the University.
- What are the consequences for violating the conduct code at the Stadium? Ms. Dzik stated that above and beyond requiring students to go to the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity to discuss their violation, possible other consequences include but are not limited to going to detox; hospitalization; participation in Check B.A.C.; probation for semester/year; meet with Mary Roske-Groth from Boynton Health Service (health promotion consultation) to talk about alcohol use, peer pressure, responsible decision-making practices involving alcohol; chemical dependency evaluation; and repeated violations could result in suspension for a specified period of time. Ms. Dzik stated that at the direction of Vice Provost for Student Affairs Jerry Rinehart, her office is exploring stiffer penalties for code of conduct violations, particularly alcohol violations.
- Has the University considered conducting random breath tests on people attending the football games? Ms. Dzik stated that this is an interesting idea. She added that there is already a fair amount of criticism about how seriously the University is enforcing the alcohol policy.
- Are there other conduct code violations at the Stadium besides alcohol? Ms. Dzik recalled one incident where there was possession of alcohol without the intoxication. By in large, offenses are alcohol-related.

III). Next on the agenda, noted Professor Reynolds, is Laurel Carroll who has been invited to talk about the liberal education (LE) requirements for new undergraduates who begin at the University in fall 2010 or later.

Ms. Carroll began by noting that the Council of Liberal Education is a Senate committee responsible for the undergraduate liberal education curriculum. Back in 2005, the Provost charged the Council with looking at the undergraduate liberal education curriculum. The Council issued its report, which was approved by the Senate in the spring of 2008. The Council concluded that while the LE requirements were not necessarily broken, they needed some tweaking. Copies of a handout that maps the fall 1999 LE requirements to the fall 2010 requirements was distributed as well as a handout explaining what continuing students need to know about the LE requirements beginning fall 2010.

Ms. Carroll emphasized that the new LE requirements are for new undergraduates who begin at the University in fall 2010 or later. Therefore, students who have already been admitted into a Twin Cities degree-seeking program will follow the current LE

requirements unless the student elects to follow the new requirements; it is the student's choice. (Current students that decide to follow the new requirements must officially notify their academic adviser of this decision.) Regardless if a current student changes colleges, he/she will stay under the current LE requirements. Ms. Carroll then turned members' attention to the handout that provides information about the new LE requirements and highlighted the major changes associated with the new LE requirements:

- Instead of taking six credits in social sciences, students will take three credits in social sciences, plus three credits in a new theme called "Technology and Society."
- For the sake of clarity and to avoid any confusion, requirement will be listed separately, e.g., four credits Physical Sciences and four credits Biological Sciences.
- Students will no longer be able to take courses that fulfill two theme requirements at the same time.

Questions/comments from members included:

- Will students have to delay graduation because of the new LE requirement that no longer allows students to take courses that fulfill two theme requirements? According to Ms. Carroll, she does not believe this new requirement will delay graduation for students, and provided the committee with a detailed explanation as to why. She added that students are being encouraged to talk to their academic advisers about any potential problems they see.
- Are there any benefits for students to switch to the new LE requirements? It depends on how the courses fit into a student's major, noted Ms. Carroll. She then shared a specific example.
- How will current students under the old LE requirements know that their OH (Other Humanities) requirement has changed to AH (Arts/Humanities)? Do students need to know about these name changes? This information will be on the One Stop page as well as given to advisers, noted Ms. Carroll.
- What was the rationale behind changing the terms, e.g., Cultural Diversity and Diversity and Social Justice in the United States? Ms. Carroll stated that this is an example of a theme where the definition really changed. The Council is trying to bring in the social justice piece as it relates to diversity. In this case, the criteria of the theme changed and so the name was changed. The same applies to the new theme requirement Civic Life and Ethics, which had previously been called Citizenship and Public Ethics. The themes are more topical and were intentionally made relevant to today. Some revised theme requirements will have new names that better reflect their purpose.

Ms. Carroll added that the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum will remain in effect. The University has talked to MnSCU schools and they are agreeable to the University's change.

In closing, Ms. Carroll stated that every effort is being made to avoid as many problems as possible during this transition. She added that students are also being encouraged to use Grad Planner (<https://webapps-prd.oit.umn.edu/gradplanner/home.jsp>) as much as possible because it is picking up the new LE requirements.

Olga Zakharenko, co-chair, thanked Ms. Carroll for her presentation.

IV). Ms. Zakharenko asked Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, about the agenda for the December meeting. Ms. Dempsey stated that Kendre Turonie from Student Affairs and Jan Morlock from University Relations are scheduled to talk about what the University is doing to promote better student/neighborhood relations.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Zakharenko adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate