

MEETING OF THE STUDENT SENATE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2004

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**165 Peik Hall--Twin Cities Campus
106 Sahlstrom Conference Center--Crookston Campus
410 Library--Duluth Campus
7 Humanities and Fine Arts--Morris Campus**

This is a meeting of the Student Senate. There are 46 voting members of the Student Senate. A simple majority must be present for a quorum. Most actions require only a simple majority for approval. Actions requiring special majorities for approval are noted under each of those items.

1. MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 2004

**Action
(2 minutes)**

MOTION:

To approve the Student Senate minutes, which are available on the Web at the following URLs. A simple majority is required for approval.

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/ssen/040930stu.html>

**STUART GOLDSTEIN, CLERK
UNIVERSITY SENATE/
TWIN CITIES CAMPUS ASSEMBLY**

**2. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT
(5 minutes)**

**3. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES
(5 minutes)**

**4. GAPSA REPORT
(5 minutes)**

**5. STUDENT EVALUATIONS OF TEACHING UPDATE
Discussion
(5 minutes)**

**6. INSTRUCTOR EDUCATION
Discussion
(5 minutes)**

7. ALCOHOL POLICY
Discussion
(5 minutes)

8. STUDENT LOBBYING EFFORT
Discussion with Mike Dean
(30 minutes)

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT

Center for Teaching and Learning Services

The University of Minnesota is one of the few schools with a teaching support program directly available to faculty and TAs. The Center for Teaching and Learning Services operates for the Twin Cities Campus and offers:

- Services
 - Small Group Instructional Diagnosis (SGID)
 - Teacher-requested student focus group designed to give feedback on teaching techniques and curriculum
 - Teaching consultations
 - Including “ask a quick teaching question”
 - Thank a teacher
 - Students can pass complements on to teachers
- Workshops
 - Teaching Enrichment Series
 - Online workshops
 - Customized workshops
- Programs
 - Preparing future teachers
 - Tutorial for doctoral students
 - Various current-teacher programs
- Various other resources are available at the web site:
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tasuper/section4.html>

So, what does this have to do with me?

Right now, very little. The most you can do through this service is thank a teacher. However, I would like to see the Center for Teaching and Learning Services add the following to their program:

- A student complaint section where specific complaints can be compiled and forwarded to faculty along with suggestions for improvement
- An expansion of the program to other campuses
- A heightened awareness of the Center for Teaching and Learning Services
- A requirement for new TAs to take some course from the Center for Teaching and Learning Services

What's the deal with Teacher Evaluations?

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (Minnesota Statute 13.43) makes some information about employees public. Public information includes the following:

- **Information about the job;** Salary, pension, fringe benefits, contract fees, expense reimbursements, job title, job description, dates of employment, work location, work telephone, and payroll documents.
- **Information about the employee;** Education, training, previous work experience, city and county of residence, honors and awards, settlement agreements regarding employment disputes, the existence and status of complaints against the employee, and disciplinary history.

Personnel information that does not fall in a "public" classification generally is private. Examples of private personnel information include performance reviews, teaching evaluations, and personal information such as family information, home address and phone number (unless you included them in the directory), race, and social security number.

Personal information can be released at the request of an employee pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13.05 Subdivision 4 (d):

- Private data may be used by and disseminated to any person or agency if the individual subject or subjects of the data have given their informed consent.
 - (7) Specific as to its expiration date which should be within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed one year

Note: This information gathered from the University of Minnesota General Counsel's Office website at <http://www.ogc.umn.edu/questions/viewfaq.cgi?id=882204158> and a conversation with Associate General Counsel Tracy Smith.

What now?

Since we have no way of universally releasing the student section under this law, we have several other options:

- Pass a resolution encouraging teachers to release their survey results
- Ask Faculty Senate for support in a "*Release the Student Release Section*" campaign
- E-mail deans and ask them to ask faculty to release survey results
- Work to try to get the legislature to add faculty evaluation exemption to law