

[In these minutes: Differential tuition/fees, Bicyclist and pedestrian concerns on campus, Vegetarian/vegan options on campus]

## **STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2011**

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

**PRESENT:** Adam Matula (chair), Angela Bartholomew, Harrison Defries, Kanza Khan, Becky Mohn, Joshua Preston, Adair Rounthwaite.

**REGRETS:** Sharin Park.

**ABSENT:** Jaycob Robinson.

### **1. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Adam Matula reported that he attended the recent Student Affairs Student Advisory Board meeting to which President Kaler was invited. Questions were asked by students and president Kaler provided the following responses:

- When asked about differential tuition, he felt that there were workable solutions
- Regarding out state recruitment and the University's status as a public land-grant institution, he stated that these decisions involve diversity and economics. While the University will always have a strong Minnesota focus, he wants to draw a more diverse student population and that can only be done through brand recognition in other areas of the country
- Administration is actively working on campus safety, both for pedestrians interacting with bicyclists and nighttime security
- When asked about a Twin Cities Campus smoking ban, he said that this proposal is not on the table at this time as the campus consensus necessary for implementation is not currently in place

He then reminded SSCC members that some are also members of the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC). If they do not attend SCC meetings, or let Gary Engstrand know that they cannot attend, they can be removed from SSCC and the Student Senate.

He spoke with Professor Chris Cramer, Chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), regarding a proposal brought to the Educational Policy Committee (SCEP) asking that grade data, such as the class size and percentage of students receiving each grade, be added to the transcript. This discussion is just starting and they are looking for additional student input.

Last night he attended a meeting of student governance leaders. Topics included collaboration between groups, establishing points of contact, internal and external communication, streamlining websites to make them more accessible, and initiatives for the year. There was discussion of using the MSA newsletter concept, which has received positive feedback, for other groups, such as small updates to senators. Another meeting will be planned for early spring semester. Someone from marketing and public relations in University Relations will be invited to focus on external relations for student organizations.

Finally, the Minnesota Higher Education Office's Student Advisory Council (SAC) has scheduled its meetings at a time when he cannot attend. As he is the only University

representative at these meetings, he is asking for someone from SSCC to attend in his place. He will forward the meeting information.

## **2. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES**

Angela Bartholomew stated that CSA is participating in the community's Winter Wonderland and is running Santaland. It is also multicultural group and international student week.

Harrison Defries noted that UMDSA is conducting a survey on student concerns, distributed student group funds, and is working on making textbook rentals available and financially feasible.

Joshua Preston reported that MCSA is focusing on MSLC and ways to get students involved.

Kanza Khan said that RSA held its annual fundraiser, trick or canning, to raise donations for the area food shelf.

Becky Mohn stated that MSA has discussed funding a dance marathon and off-campus student housing concerns regarding a city ordinance that prohibits more than three unrelated individuals from living together, no matter the size of the dwelling.

Adair Rounthwaite reported that GAPSA's Executive Board met yesterday and the next Assembly meeting has been moved to November 30. This means that GAPSA's discussion with President Kaler will be delayed until February. An internal survey is being conducted of the Assembly to address issues that arose last year. A budget change is being proposed so that unused program funds would be moved to fund grants.

## **3. DISCUSSION OF DIFFERENTIAL TUITION/FEES**

Adam Matula referred members to the minutes of two Senate committees where this topic was discussed. Members noted that most students do not look closely at fees and therefore this is an area that can hide cost increases. It was agreed that this was an issue of student interest and should be a topic at the December 1 meeting.

## **4. DISCUSSION OF BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN CONCERNS ON CAMPUS**

Adam Matula stated that safety for pedestrians and bicyclists is a concern on the Twin Cities Campus due to light rail construction. He would like to bring a resolution to the December 1 meeting, but asked if the wording should include the coordinate campuses or just focus on the Twin Cities. Members agreed that this is not an issue at the coordinate campuses, therefore the wording would be specific to the Twin Cities.

## **5. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN VICE PRESIDENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERVIEWS**

Adam Matula asked members to considered attending the candidate interviews that are taking place next week. Phone arrangements can be made for coordinate campus members.

## **6. DISCUSSION OF VEGETARIAN/VEGAN OPTIONS ON CAMPUS**

Adam Matula said that there was a recent editorial article about insufficient meal plan and dining options for the Twin Cities Campus. A petition drive is underway to get student support for dining service changes. Is this an issue for the coordinate campuses?

Members made the following comments:

- Rochester does not have a meal plan and there are many business offerings around campus
- Crookston offers Vegetarian/Vegan options Monday-Friday; there have not been complaints from students
- Morris had an issue but it was resolved after talking with food services; the bigger issue is improper labels
- Duluth students on the meal plan have an option at every meal. UMDSA worked with the food services to improve options three years ago.

## **7. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR SSCC OR THE STUDENT SENATE FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Members brought the following items:

- Parking, food quality, and possible vegetarian options are issues from Duluth – Parking would be a topic at the December SSCC meeting
- Supporting gender-neutral housing and bathrooms – This would be a topic at the December SSCC meeting

## **8. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 1 STUDENT SENATE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as amended.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

With no further business, Adam Matula thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate