

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING

November 9, 2011

Morrill Hall Room 238A

[In these minutes: strengths based campus initiative; student services fees report; updates from student governance leadership; vote on tobacco free campus resolution; committee business]

[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: Joyce Holl (Co-Chair), Silvia Canelon (Co-Chair), Amelious Whyte, Katie Roehl, Elena Machkasova, Kendre Turonie, Lauren Schrader, Gabi Schmiegel, Amber Peifer, Thomas Bilder, Anthony Albecker, Michael Stebleton, Brandee Polson,

REGRETS: Patricia Nguyen, Nathan Pelzer

ABSENT: Rachael Nguyen, Carlos Torelli, Kristy Eder,

GUESTS: Jerry Rinehart, vice provost, Office of Student Affairs (OSA); Robin Stubblefield, director of engagement, OSA; Lizzy Shay, president, Minnesota Student Association (MSA); Brittany Edwards, vice-president, Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA); Adair Rounthwaite, vice president for student affairs, GAPSA

OTHERS: John Steadland, president's office; Sandy Olson Loy, vice chancellor, UMM Student Affairs; David Swenson, director, UMM Student Affairs; Bridget Joos, coordinator, UMM Student Affairs

Joyce Holl convened the meeting, welcomed those present, and called for introductions.

Strengths Based Campus Initiative

Jerry Rinehart, vice provost, Office for Student Affairs (OSA) and Robin Stubblefield, director of engagement, OSA provided the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) with an update on the initiative to create a strengths based campus (Initiative). Vice Provost Rinehart remarked on the importance of assessing the success of the Initiative in order to operate from an evidence-based position, and then he turned the floor over to Ms. Stubblefield. Ms. Stubblefield stated that beginning in fall 2011, every incoming first-year student would take the StrengthsFinder (SF) assessment. The SF identifies an individual's top five talents and provides resources for setting goals that put those talents into meaningful action. The idea is that the more students understand their personal style, motivation and talents, the more they will be able to maximize their educational experience at the University. As of Nov. 2, 5,082 of the incoming first-year students completed the assessment. Hundreds of staff in multiple offices, including the Office of

the President, have also taken the SF. Ms. Stubblefield then noted the following highlights of the Initiative.

Welcome Week

- Many colleges incorporated strengths activities into College Day of Welcome Week
- The Office for Student Engagement hosted six sessions of *You at the “U” and What Does That Have to Do With Woo?* on University Day. The session brought together strengths and the Do What Matters engagement initiative
- Students had a chance to pick Goldy’s Top 5 Talent Themes
- President Eric Kaler provided support for the Initiative through his Convocation and Welcome Back to campus messages

Training/Workshops

- Approximately 250 staff participated in a full day Strengths Educator Seminar. Through a collaboration with North Hennepin Community College, 20+ additional staff were also trained
- A group of about 35 staff participated in a full day Strengths Mentoring and Advising Seminar
- A small group of faculty teaching first-year seminars attended a half day Strengths Workshop

Technology

- A new strengths website for the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus launched at www.strengths.umn.edu. Faculty and staff can access this site.
- Talent themes for first year students have been uploaded to APLUS
- The U of M is working with Gallup to help improve technology available to higher education institutions in relation to strengths administration and implementation

Miscellaneous

- Staff from 20+ departments served on four working groups including Communications, Training and Development, Implementation, and Research/Assessment
- Twenty-three staff from a variety of departments serve on the Strengths Advisory Board
- Housing and Residential Life trained all Community Advisors to be Strengths coaches
- A research/assessment plan has been finalized to monitor the impact of this initiative. Information about the plan is available on the strengths.umn.edu. Specific assessment measures include academic self-efficacy, engagement, appreciation of diversity/difference, sense of belonging, and hope. Student retention and graduate rates will also be monitored.
- Preliminary results demonstrated that 96% of students who completed the Welcome Week Survey reported they can recall at least two of their Strengths while 77% indicate they can articulate how they used one of their Strengths during Welcome Week

- A strategic planning session will take place in December to map out upcoming launches and create framework for ongoing strengths development as students progress through undergraduate experience

Vice Provost Rinehart provided some additional background on the Initiative. He stated when OSA began looking into the Initiative it discovered there were many areas within the University utilizing the SF. OSA also viewed it as a way to reinvigorate Welcome Week's "Do What Matters" campaign. Some of the challenges for undertaking the Initiative were determining who would pay for it and when the SF would be taken. OSA and the Office for Undergraduate Education are sponsoring the Initiative. Funding is provided by proceeds from the University's beverage contract with Coca Cola. It is hoped that the initiative will contribute to student success by increasing students' self-awareness, developing students to their full potential, creating a common language across the campus that contributing to a sense of community.

Professor Anthony Albecker asked whether transfer students were also participating in the Initiative. Ms. Subblefield stated transfer students would be included in fall 2012. She also noted work is being done to incorporate the Initiative into the sophomore year experience. She stated it is important to have touch points throughout students' careers.

Vice Provost Rinehart noted that transfer students are the least satisfied students, and he hopes the Initiative will help smooth the transition.

Ms. Holl asked if the Initiative is being implemented on coordinate campuses. Ms. Subblefield responded that there is interest on the coordinate campuses as well as local community colleges and the Minnesota State Colleges and University System.

Professor Michael Stebleton commented that the College of Education and Human Development had strengths infused into its first year inquiry course. This helps to bridge the areas of academics and student affairs.

Student Services Fees Report

Amelious Whyte, chief of staff, OSA provided the committee with a template outlining the information to be included in the Student Services Fees Committee's end of the year report, and a draft copy of the completed 2010-11 report. He walked the SCSA through the report.

Highlights included:

- Total number of SSF applicants
 - Student groups: 60
 - Administrative units: 6 biennial requests, 4 off-year updates
- Total amount of SSFs awarded by student groups and administrative units
 - \$27,719,007
 - 7% increase from last year
- Number of new SSF applicants
 - Student groups: 17 new groups
 - Administrative group: 1

- The amount of increase or decrease in fees from the previous fiscal year.
 - fees went up by 4.8%
 - the largest administrative unit was recreational sports due to the new facility.
- Summary of the audit process
 - Student groups are audited from time-to-time
 - Partnership between the MSA and the Student Accounting and Financial Association to assist student groups with their audits.

Mr. Whyte also indicated that a Student Services Fees Review Committee would be meeting this fall to conduct a comprehensive review of the fees process. Some topics it will address include:

- Concerns about neutrality
- One-time funding requests process
- Appeals committee
- Process for handling late applications

Mr. Whyte asked the SCSA for feedback on the template for the report. Kendre Turonie stated it would be helpful to include the total number of groups receiving funds. Amber Peifer suggested including the total amount of fees requested versus fees granted.

Lauren Schrader asked about the status of the Review Committee. Mr. Whyte stated the charge letter was completed and committee members are being contacted. Professor Elena Machkasova asked if the review included the coordinate campuses. Mr. Whyte stated it was only for the Twin Cities.

Professor Carlos Torelli asked how the Student Service Fees Committee differs from the Appeals Committee. Mr. Whyte stated that in the past there had been some overlap in these committees' membership, but this had resulted in questions of neutrality and one of the tasks of the Review Committee will be to propose criteria for Appeals Committee membership.

Discussion with Student Governance Leadership

The SCSA invited the leaders from MSA and GAPSA to the SCSA meeting to share the work of their organizations, meet the members of the SCSA, and learn about the work of the SCSA.

Colin Burke, vice president, MSA, stated that MSA represents undergraduates. He explained that it has six committees, and spoke briefly about the current work of some of the committees.

- Housing, Facilities, and Transit – working on a renter's survey
- Campus Relations – working on outreach and safety campaign
- Grants- provides funding to groups smaller than those who receive student service fees, and funds small events.
- Academics and Services
- Steering

- Legislative Affairs

Lizzy Shay, president, MSA noted the upcoming campus leadership reception and invited student groups from across campus. She stated MSA leadership had recently met with President Kaler. Some of the issues they discussed included:

- Safety on campus,
- Diversity issues
- Reallocation of space on the second floor of Coffman Student Union
- Alcohol policies

She also noted MSA is running a volunteer tax assistance program with the Carlson School, working closely with the President's Office on presenting a united student voice at the capital this legislative session, and hosting TEDx events to bring together great thinkers at the University and provide them with an opportunity to share their ideas.

Brittany Edwards, executive vice president, GAPSA and Adair Rounthwaite, vice president for student affairs, GAPSA, outlined the GAPSA committees. and briefly discussed GAPSA's current work.

- Administrative Affairs
- Student Affairs
- Finance
- Grants
- Programming – this position is new
- Public Affairs
- Representative to the Board of Regents

Some of the issues GAPSA is considering include.

- Partnering with the Council of Graduate Students and examining the relationship between GAPSA and the colleges
- Survey of GAPSA and how it is operating
- Survey of the graduate and professional student experience
- Bringing in a speaker next spring on Civility in Democracy

GAPSA also met with President Kaler. Some of the items discussed included:

- Graduate student's concerns about tuition and debt
- Deep concerns about employment opportunities following graduation

Vote on SHAC's Tobacco-Free Campus Resolution

Ms. Canelon stated that at the October SCSA meeting, the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) presented its Tobacco Free Campus Resolution and asked for SCSA's support. She then called for discussion of the Resolution followed by a vote on whether or not to support it. Brandee Polson raised concerns about the safety of students who are required to go off campus to smoke, particularly after dark. She also expressed concerns about the enforceability of the resolution, and infringing on the rights of students who choose to smoke.

Professor Machkasova abstained from the vote as the Resolution only pertains to the Twin Cities. However, she noted she was impressed with the amount of research presented in the Resolution and strongly supports decreasing smoking. Ms. Canelon stated she supports the idea of maintaining a smoke-free environment on campus, but she also questioned the enforceability of the Resolution. She relayed her experience at Indiana University where students continued to smoke despite a tobacco free campus policy. Ms. Schrader commented that smoking did not seem to be a significant problem on campus. Ms. Polson stated a good compromise would be better enforcement of the existing 25-foot rule.

Hearing no further discussion, Ms. Canelon called for a vote. The SCSA voted not to support the Tobacco Free Campus Resolution.

New Business

Mr. Whyte reported the revised Student Conduct Code would be ready for SCSA review and comment by its February or March meeting, and would be presented to the Board of Regents in May and June.

Joyce Holl reported on her meeting with the Student Committee on Committee's (SConC). She met with the SConC regarding their recommendations that arose from the Ad Hoc Committee Review of the SCSA.

- Increasing the number of students on the SCSA from nine to twelve.
- Increasing the diversity of student representatives on all Senate committees
- Changing the process for appointing students to Senate committees so that they are able to attend committee meetings by September.

Ms. Holl reported that the SConC was very receptive to each of these ideas. They also recommended holding two seats on the Senate committees for freshman, if the student appointments are made in the spring rather than the fall as they are currently.

Ms. Holl stated she and the SConC also discussed creating ex officio positions on the SCSA for one MSA and one GAPSA student. Ms. Holl asked for committee feedback on this suggestion. Mr. Whyte agreed that it would be a good idea to have MSA and GAPSA representatives as ex officio members of the SCSA. He thought it would improve the governance system and increase communication among all student groups.

Ms. Polson also agreed with the idea but wanted to ensure that this would not decrease the number of voting students on the committee. Ms. Holl stated she would present the idea to MSA and GAPSA and follow up with the SConC.

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

Dawn Zugay
University Senate Office

