

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 22, 2012
Morrill Hall Room 238A

[In these minutes: coordinate campus student affairs updates; communication with coordinate campuses; student conduct code; committee composition; revisions to committee charge]

[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), Gina Dominechetti, Marcus Guith, Sam Ketchum, Elena Machkasova, Rachel Nguyen, Nathan Pelzer, Brandee Polson, Jerry Rinehart, Katie Roehl, Lauren Schrader, Michael Stebleton, Carlos Torelli, Michael Vargas

REGRETS: Anthony Albecker, Patricia Nguyen, Amber Peifer, Gabi Schmiegel, Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte

ABSENT: Kristy Eder, Marissa Kramer

GUESTS: Sharon Dzik, director, Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity; Lisa Erwin, Vice Chancellor of Student Life, Duluth; Sandra Olson Loy, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Morris; Peter Phaiah, Associate Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Crookston; Tracy Smith, Office of the General Council

OTHERS: Thomas Bilder, Boyton Health Services, Lizzy Shay, president, Minnesota Student Association (MSA); David Swenson, director, UMM Student Affairs

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

Coordinate Campus Student Affairs Updates

Sandra Olson Loy, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Morris provided the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) with background information on the University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) student body and an update on the work of the Morris Office for Student Affairs. She stated there are 1,900 students at UMM. The students are broadly engaged; over 70% are involved in student activities. There are 94 registered student groups and new groups form regularly. Some examples of these groups include the Students of Color Association, the American Science and Engineering Society, and the Bad Movie Group.

Vice Chancellor Olson Loy next discussed some UMM Student Affairs initiatives such as:

- Building community through the Community Center and newly renovated dining facility and coffee shop
- Discussing a smoke-free campus
- Looking at the use of student list-serves
- Providing a shared ride service

She then noted some areas the Office of Student Affairs has been working to improve:

- Student dining satisfaction
- Updating student-housing facilities.
 - Currently seeking approval from the Board of Regents for construction of new student housing.
 - Considering the appropriate percentage of students that should live on campus
- Shifting from Division II to Division III in athletics in order to increase athlete success and to be regionally competitive

Next, Peter Phaiah, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Crookston, provided the committee with an update on the Crookston Office for Student Affairs. He walked the SCSA through the Student Affairs Department's organizational chart. He noted that UMC Chancellor Dr. Charles Casey will be retiring in June and that Dr. Thomas Baldwin is the Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs.

Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah then discussed an "inventory" of UMC student services, and noted that at UMC Student Affairs are separate from Student Services.

Some of the services include:

- Diversity and Multicultural Programs
- Community Engagement
- Student Activities
- Career and Counseling
- Student Experience and Parent Programming
- Residential Life
- Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Food Services

Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah then discussed the Student Fee Committee. He stated the committee consists of five students, three faculty, and he is an ex officio member. Student groups submit fees requests. There is an automatic hearing for those student groups who requested additional funds or who received an increase last year. Recommendations are submitted to the Crookston Student Association for review. The Chancellor reviews the recommendation. The recommendation for student fees is part of the Cost of Attendance, which is submitted to Vice President Robert Jones.

Next, Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah noted several initiatives including:

- Board of Regents approval for a new residence hall to accommodate 141 freshmen and sophomores.

- Free local bus services provided to the entire UMC community anywhere in Crookston
- On-line orientation course for international students
 - The student population is 12 % international, and 30 percent of the residence hall population is international
 - Skype Pal Program implemented to assist South Korean students with transition to UMC

Minnesota Student Association (MSA) President Lizzy Shay asked Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah how the members of the Student Fee Committee are selected. Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah explained that the CSA selects the student members, and the faculty are on a three-year rotation.

Methods to Increase Communication with Coordinate Campuses

Joyce Holl stated that one of the SCSA's goals this year has been to fulfill its charge of being a system-wide committee and to increase communication between the SCSA and the senior student affairs leadership on the coordinate campuses, and she asked for feedback on how best to foster this communication.

She also asked the coordinate campus student affairs leaders when it would work best to provide reports from their respective student service fees committees. Additionally, she invited the student affairs leaders to speak with the committee in person on an annual basis.

Vice Chancellor Olson Loy stated it works best for her to receive the SCSA agendas and minutes and participate via phone in SCSA meetings when issues arise that are particularly relevant to Morris. With regard to the Student Service Fee Report Dave Swenson, director, Morris Student Affairs, stated the fee hearings and decisions are completed in February and final recommendations are submitted to the Chancellor after spring break.

Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah stated the UMC Student Service Fee Report would be completed prior to spring break. He agreed that receiving the SCSA agenda and meeting minutes were a helpful means of staying in touch with the committee, and it would work well for him to speak with the SCSA in person once a year.

Lisa Erwin, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Duluth, stated that for the most part, the student service fee report template provided by the Twin Cities Office for Student Affairs would work for Duluth, and that her office could submit a Student Service Fee Report in October.

Vice Chancellor Erwin noted that the Twin Cities Vice Provost for Student Affairs is an ex officio member of the SCSA but the coordinate campus equivalents are not. Ms. Holl asked if the coordinate campus student affairs leaders would be interested in being ex officio representatives to the committee and if this might encourage the flow of information between the SCSA and the coordinate campus student affairs offices. Vice Chancellor Erwin indicated she would be interested in exploring the option. Vice

Chancellor Olson Loy noted others in her office such as the Director of Student Affairs, could share the ex officio role on the SCSA. Associate Vice Chancellor Phaiah and Vice Provost Jerry Rinehart agreed that it would be beneficial to have an ex officio representative from each of the coordinate campus student affairs offices on the SCSA.

Professor Elena Machkasova suggested it would be beneficial to have a faculty, student, or staff member of the committee from each of the coordinate campuses.

Vice Chancellor Erwin noted she would share an update from the Duluth Office for Student Life at the April SCSA meeting.

Student Conduct Code Revisions

Sharon Dzik, director Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, and Tracy Smith, Office of the General Council, provided the SCSA with suggested revisions to the Board of Regents policy on the Student Conduct Code and asked the SCSA for feedback. Ms. Dzik walked the SCSA through the revisions point by point. These included:

- Changes to the scope of the Conduct Code,
- New definitions of plagiarism, student, student organization, and campus
- Expanded description of jurisdiction
- Changes to the disciplinary offenses section
 - Disruption of the academic environment
 - Refusal to identify and comply
 - Harm to person
 - Bullying
 - Sexual Assault
 - Providing alcohol to minors
 - Violations of local laws and ordinances
- Addition of an introductory paragraph regarding sanctions under Subdivision VI, Sanctions

Brandee Polson and Sam Ketchum noted that the term “academic environment” was vague and a definition should be provided. They should be clarified whether the academic environment extends into the online environment.

Lauren Schrader stated it was unclear what qualified as a “University activity,” and questioned how it applied to activities engaged in by student groups.

Michael Vargas indicated there should be more specificity about what it meant to work toward an academic credit. Ms. Dzik explained this section was intended to reach issues involved with learning abroad.

Ms. Holl asked how students become aware of the changes to the Conduct Code. Ms. Dzik stated that the student associations on the Twin Cities and coordinate campuses would be notified and a notice might be placed in the *Minnesota Daily*. Vice Chancellor Erwin asked that Ms. Dzik coordinate with her office on communication of the Conduct Code changes.

Vice Provost Rinehart noted that subdivision 6 changes the language regarding harm to a person and asked how the Conduct Code is addressing harm to self. Ms. Smith stated adding a section regarding harm to self is under discussion.

Sam Ketchum asked Ms. Dzik to clarify subdivision 3, section 2 “adversely effects a substantial University interest.” Ms. Dzik explained that “substantial University interest” is defined in an approximately ten-item rubric including items such as assault, not complying with a police officer, and repeat DUI violations. She stated she would provide the SCSA with the rubric.

Vice Chancellor Erwin noted that the Twin Cities list might not necessarily apply to the Duluth campus and visa versa. Ms. Dzik agreed stating the list only provides examples of “substantial interest” and is not inclusive. Vice Chancellor Olson Loy noted the list could be included in the procedures section rather than the policy itself.

Ms. Dzik thanked the SCSA for its input and stated she would share the list of consultation with it. She also indicated she expects the completed policy to go before the Board of Regents in May or June, and this might allow time for a second review by the SCSA.

Committee Composition

Ms. Canelon explained that the SCSA has been seeking ways to increase communication between the SCSA and the University student governance associations in order to work together on issues and channel appropriate issues through the governance process. The Student Committee on Committees suggested that the MSA and the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) be ex officio members of the SCSA. The SCSA approached the presidents of these organizations. The MSA and GAPSA leaders also supported this idea.

Ms. Canelon asked the coordinate campus student affairs leaders if they believed it would be beneficial for members of the coordinate campus governance organizations also to have ex officio seats on the SCSA. The coordinate campus leaders indicated that student governance leaders from their campuses should be included if the SCSA intends to be system-wide. They further suggested that the leaders of the coordinate campus governance organizations be consulted. Dawn Zugay, Senate Office staff, indicated she would contact the coordinate campus student governance leaders.

The committee then discussed the necessity of having the presidents of GAPSA and MSA sit on the SCSA. Ms. Shay felt strongly that it would be important to have the president represent the MSA at SCSA meetings. She noted the president sits on many other committees and brings that background. The consensus of the SCSA was that it should be left up to MSA and GAPSA to determine who should attend SCSA meetings.

The SCSA voted to add GAPSA and MSA representatives as ex officio members to the SCSA.

Revisions to SCSA Charge

Ms. Canelon walked the SCSA through the proposed changes to the SCSA charge. These included:

- Increasing the number of student members of the committee
- Eliminating a reference to an obsolete policy on registration and classification of student groups
- Elimination of the SCSA Student Services Fees Subcommittee
- Changing the line of reporting from the Senate Consultative Committee to the Student Senate Consultative Committee

The SCSA voted to approve these changes to the charge.

Old and New Business

Ms. Holl informed the SCSA that Laurie McLaughlin, director, Housing and Residential Life would be speaking at the March meeting and asked the committee members if they had questions for Ms. McLaughlin. The following suggestions were made:

- Learn about the new residence hall
- Receive information on the goals of the living and learning communities
- Learning how the StrengthsFinder program is being used in the residence halls.

Ms. Schrader asked for an explanation of the StrengthsFinder initiative and Vice Provost Rinehart provided a brief explanation. Vice Provost Rinehart stated he could provide the SCSA with the opportunity to take the StrengthsFinder, and would ask Robin Stubblefield to contact Ms. Holl. Vice Provost Rinehart also noted that in the fall, incoming and transfer students would be offered the StrengthsFinder assessment in order to assist their transition to the University.

Ms. Holl informed the SCSA of several student surveys being conducted this spring including the Student Academic Integrity, Student Experiences at Research Universities, and Healthy Minds surveys.

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

Dawn Zugay
University Senate