

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 30, 2012

Morrill Hall Room 238A

[In these minutes: update on national college health improvement project; open forum on alcohol use; Sudan position statement revisions; inappropriate use of ADHD medication]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of 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: Dave Golden (chair), Susan Cable-Morrison, Lolita Davis Carter, Carol Foth, David Fuhs, Ahmed Heikal, Madisen Johnson, Sandra Krebsbach, Carolyn Mayberry, Theresa Mensinger, Michael O'Day, Kim Robien, Amelious Whyte

REGRETS: Stephen Gross, Maria Hanratty, Dan Kelliher, Anthony Quill, Catherine Solheim, Teresa Schicker, Timothy Sheldon

ABSENT: Elizabeth Ault, John Broadhurst, Shannon Evans, Tanner Roberts, Lizzy Shay,

GUESTS: Ferdinand Schlapper, director, Boynton Health Services

Dave Golden called the meeting to order, and asked Social Concerns Committee members to introduce themselves.

Update on National College Health Improvement Project (NCHIP) Learning Collaborative on High Risk Drinking

Amelious Whyte, chief of staff, Office for Student Affairs (OSA), provided the committee with an update on the University of Minnesota's participation in the NCHIP Learning Collaborative on High Risk Drinking. He stated the University is participating in the project with 32 other Universities. The University's team includes Vice Provost Jerry Rinehart, Director of Boynton Health Services, Ferdinand Schlapper, as well as representatives from the School of Public Health, Housing and Residential Life, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, the University Police Department, the Office of Student Affairs, Student and Community Relations, the University Counseling and Consulting Services and a student representative.

Mr. Whyte stated the project's focus is reducing high risk drinking and its associated harms. The goal is to reduce the average number of negative consequences experienced by students from high risk drinking by 20% in the next three years.

Mr. Whyte next provided some examples of how high risk drinkers are far more likely to experience negative consequences than their peers. These include poor performance on

tests or important projects, getting into arguments or fights, driving a car under the influence, and missing class. He stated the cost to the University of high risk drinking is approximately \$1.5 million and this does not include urgent care or mental health costs. To the excluding mental health and urgent care costs.

Mr. Whyte stated that factors contributing to the problem of high risk drinking are at the individual, environmental, and system levels. He noted some of the environmental factors such as ease of access to alcohol and enforcement. He then discussed the University's individual level initiatives including:

- Boynton Health Service's pilot program for alcohol screening
- BASICS counseling program
- Brief Motivational Interviewing
- Bystander Intervention/Step UP
- Residential Life curriculum

Next, Mr. Whyte discussed the environmental level initiatives at the university including: Fraternity "observation" teams created to monitor parties and determine if party rules are being followed.

- Healthy Minds – national survey
- The Other Hangover Campaign – a student created campaign focused on the negative social consequences of binge drinking
- Campus Alcohol Permit Processes

Mr. Whyte then discussed the system level actions the University is taking such as tracking and influencing legislation and collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health. Mr. Whyte noted that the University had lobbied in favor of a social host ordinance in the City of Minneapolis.

He stated the University NCHIP collaborative tracks incidents of high risk drinking in the campus-neighborhoods, residential halls, and the Greek community. It also tracks participation rates in a number of its intervention programs such as the BASICS, BHS screening, and peer mentoring.

BHS Director, Ferdinand Schlapper, reinforced Mr. Whyte's comments, and noted that social concern is at the heart of BHS's efforts to create a healthy, caring campus community.

Carol Foth asked what the student reaction has been to the alcohol screenings. Mr. Golden responded that the screenings would not begin until June. Currently, BHS asks three questions about alcohol use during the general health screening, but the actual screening will involve a broader list of questions, he stated. Mr. Whyte acknowledged that some students might find the screening intrusive, but stated BHS and OSA's view point is that it demonstrates the University cares for its students. Mr. Whyte noted that several peer institutions are also conducting screenings.

Mr. Golden noted that the Legislature recently approved the sale of alcohol to the general public in TCF Bank Stadium, although no other Big Ten school allows this in their stadiums. Mr. Whyte discussed the measures being taken by the University to control the alcohol consumption in the stadium such as the requirement that alcohol be consumed in a contained area with a view of the field.

Committee Sponsorship of Open Forum on Alcohol Use

Mr. Golden stated that it is within the committee's charge to initiate forums on current controversial issues, and he asked the committee to continue its previous discussion on the possibility of holding a forum on alcohol use. Mr. Golden noted that the State Health Commissioner is interested in the topic. The consensus of the committee was it would be interested in assisting with this type of forum in the fall. Mr. Golden asked committee members interested in planning the forum to contact him.

Sudan Position Statement Revisions

David Fuhs provided the committee with copies of the revised Statement Regarding Social Concerns in Investment Policies. He indicated that the Sudan Subcommittee had incorporated the committee's previous recommendations to make the resolution more general and a guide to those making investment decisions. The resolution is follows.

In 2007 the University of Minnesota Senate Faculty adopted the "Sudan Position Statement" on investment in "egregious" countries/companies, the following is proposed to replace the 2007 statement.

Statement Regarding Social Concerns in Investment Policies

The University of Minnesota has a long established tradition of concern for social issues. The University of Minnesota Board of Regents policies on investment of University funds limit the number of direct investments in individual securities (stocks, bonds). The University relies on investment managers to use good judgment and generally invest in companies that have long histories and good reputations. The investment managers invest the University of Minnesota funds primarily in index funds and commingled investment vehicles. When the University does any direct investing, it looks to the third-party Interfaith Center of Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) to ensure it avoids investing in countries that commit egregious human rights violations. Direct investment of the funds of the University of Minnesota are most commonly invested in US Treasury and agency bonds, money market funds, or are or held as cash in bank accounts. The Endowment Fund policy specifically states that the University shall consider social responsibility in its investment decisions.

Accordingly, the Social Concerns Committee recommends that the Senate support the following investment philosophy:

- a) The University make it policy to prohibit direct investment in any company that is listed as an egregious contributor to the financial support of a government that is considered to be associated with gross human rights violations. (Reference Darfur Statement 2007)
- b) The University routinely consults with its investment managers of commingled funds that might provide indirect exposure to any company listed as an egregious contributor to the financial support of an offending government and establishes ongoing financial strategies to avoid investment in these companies.

c) The Senate Social Concerns Committee periodically reviews the investment policies of the University to assure that its investment practices do not present a social concern to the University.

Approved by the Social Concerns Committee on _____ 2012

- 1) Board of Regents Policy – Endowment Fund
- 2) Board of Regents Policy – Investment of Reserves
- 3) Board of Regents Policy – Investment Functions

Ms. Foth asked what the term “egregious contributor” meant. The committee then discussed application of the term egregious to actions and funding and whether there was a list of egregious contributors. Michael O’Day expressed the concern that removing the term egregious from the resolution would make it overly broad. The committee agreed to eliminate "listed as an egregious contributor" and replace it with the word "contributes."

Mr. Fuhs noted that the format of the resolution would also need to be changed to conform to the University Senate motion and statement format. Mr. Fuhs stated the subcommittee would work with Dawn Zugay, Senate staff, to make the suggested changes and send out the revised resolution for committee vote.

Report on Inappropriate Use of ADHD Medication

Committee member Mr. Fuhs, a Sr. Regional Medical Scientist at GlaxoSmithKline spoke with the committee about the inappropriate use of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) medications such as Adderall by University students. He referenced an article in the Star Tribune about students faking symptoms in order to access the drugs. The article indicated there had been a large increase in the number of ADHD prescriptions written, that individuals accessing the drugs may not have ADHD, and that clinicians should be more discriminating in determining who has a legitimate need for a prescription, Mr. Fuhs stated.

Mr. Golden added that BHS had surveyed students on their use of other people’s prescriptions in the last twelve months, and the results showed that about 9% of students reported sharing prescriptions with others and the most common drug shared is Adderall. Mr. Golden noted that the spring survey would ask more specific questions about Adderall sharing.

Mr. Fuhs went on to state that Adderall is a schedule II controlled substance like oxycodone and cocaine because of its high potential for abuse. He also noted it is a big risk for students in the health sciences to be caught and convicted for illegal use of the drug because they may be unable to be licensed in their fields.

Carol Foth asked about the health risks posed by ADHD medications. Mr. Fuhs stated that it is addictive, could cause heart disturbances, and psychological disturbances occur in a small percentage of individuals. Mr. Golden added that little is known about the use

of Adderall in conjunction with other drugs. He stated another problem is the perception that Adderall is benign, and noted that some providers give students prescriptions for Adderall use during exam time.

He went on to state that the number of prescriptions for ADHD medications has tripled in the last several years. BHS mental health services cannot handle the full load of cases and primary care doctors now handle some patients' medication management.

Lolita Davis Carter raised the issue of the connection between the legitimate need for ADHD medications and the need for assistance from Disabilities Services. Mr. Fuhs stated that he had spoken with BHS psychiatrist Dr. Gary Christenson about the impact of ADHD medications on those with ADHD. He stated the medication will not necessarily enhance performance, but it can level the playing field for these individuals. But it provides an unfair advantage to give it to students who do not need it.

Ms. Davis Carter stated the committee should not make a statement on the topic of illegitimate use of ADHD medication until it has information related to how many students have legitimate needs and prescriptions for the medications.

Mr. Whyte stated the problem is with students taking drugs that are not prescribed to them. He noted it would be important to let students know the consequences of taking ADHD drugs. Professor Kim Robien commented she was surprised more information was not provided at the point when the medication is dispensed.

The committee discussed the possibility of a campaign to provide increased point-of-sale information about the potential impact of the illegal use of ADHD medications. The committee thought it might be helpful to emphasize that Adderall is a class II narcotic and its illegal use could impact a student's career. It was suggested that this information could be placed in the prescription bag. Mr. Fuhs suggested that the information could be provided to incoming students.

Mr. Golden commented that BHS does not diagnose new cases of ADHD because onset of the disease generally occurs before college. Students are therefore, sent to outside physicians for a diagnosis. Mr. Golden noted that Dr. Christenson is reexamining the idea of BHS providing new diagnoses.

Mr. Golden stated the committee should continue discussion of the topic in the fall and possibly invite Dr. Christenson to speak with the committee about the potential changes to BHS's policy on diagnosis.

Hearing no further business, Mr. Golden adjourned the meeting.

Dawn Zugay
University Senate Office

Follow Up: At the April 30 Social Concerns meeting, committee members suggested several changes to the resolution provided by the Sudan Subcommittee. These changes included eliminating "listed as an egregious contributor" and replacing it with the word "contributes."

However, Anthony Quill, the ex officio member from the Office of Finance and Investments, was unable to attend the meeting, and when he and the rest of the subcommittee subsequently reviewed the suggested changes several questions arose about whether the new language was so broad it would prevent implementation of the suggested policy. Questions also arose about whether the resolution was asking for the University Senate to make a statement on University investment philosophy or whether it was asking the Senate to seek some administrative action to implement the suggested investment philosophy. Committee chair, Dave Golden, felt the questions required the resolution to be returned to the full committee for further discussion in October.