

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS  
MINUTES OF MEETING

October 1, 2012

Morrill Hall Room 510

[In these minutes: Committee orientation, review of pending issues, list of new issues for 2012-2013.]

[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), Matthew Fredericks, Lolita Davis Carter, David Fuhs, Stephen Gross, Madisen Johnson, Daniel Kelliher, Sandra Krebsbach, Michael O'Day, Anthony Quill, Tanner Roberts, Jennifer Snider

**REGRETS:** Peter Cao, Laura Duckett, Carol Foth, Sarah Hamilton, Tim Sheldon, Amelious Whyte

**ABSENT:** John Broadhurst, Maria Hanratty, Carolyn Mayberry, Paul Ranelli, Teresa Schicker, Lizzy Shay, Catherine Solheim

**GUESTS:** None

**OTHERS:** Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office

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

### **COMMITTEE ORIENTATION**

Mr. Golden reviewed the charge and explained that the committee reports to the Senate Consultative Committee. He reminded members of the resolution passed last year regarding the use of personal days for P&A employees. The flyer for the University Senate Centennial celebrations was distributed and the members were invited to attend the events. He commented that the committee has the ability to share and support resolutions with other committees to create a greater impact.

### **REVIEW OF PENDING ISSUES**

- In September 2011, Chris Suedbeck, director of investments, Office of Investments and Banking, asked the Social Concerns Committee to consider whether the University should continue to discourage investment in Sudan or whether recent political changes had altered the University's opinion of this country and the merits of investing there. He reminded the committee of the position statement drafted last year, *Statement Regarding Social Concerns in Investment Policies*.

Mr. Golden addressed Mr. Quill, member of the subcommittee that reviewed the Social Concerns Committee charge, the “2007 Sudan Position Statement,” and the current University of Minnesota Investment Policies, regarding the use of the word “egregious.” Mr. Quill stated that he would be comfortable with taking out the word “egregious” and retaining the phrasing, “any company listed as a contributor” in the position statement.

The committee agreed that the title should be changed because it no longer applies to just Sudan. The suggested title is “*Statement Regarding Social Concerns in Investment Policies*” because this will encompass sustainability, use of natural resources, and human rights violations.

Mr. Golden asked if anyone would like to make a motion to adopt the position statement, the motion was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously through a voice vote.

- Mr. Golden raised the question of whether or not there should be a member of the Social Concerns Committee should be involved with the Office of Investments and Banking in regard to investments being made. Mr. Quill stated that the position’s responsibilities would be hard to define. Mr. Golden stated that he sees redundancy in creating a new role due to Mr. Quill’s position on the Social Concerns Committee and an employee of Investments and Banking. The committee agreed there was no need to create this position and Mr. Quill will continue to provide updates to the committee.

Ms. Courtney added that if the Board Office reviews a policy and agrees to make a change, they forward the recommended change to the appropriate governing body, as appropriate. She explained that there are Board policies and administrative policies. Every administrative policy has an owner. She offered to send the consulting matrix and the Regents’ Policy.

- Mr. Golden moved on to review the issue of the misuse of ADHD medication. He stated that this is one of the most frequently prescribed types of medication and many anecdotal reports are received regarding their misuse. Mr. Golden stated that 9% of students reported using someone else’s prescribed ADHD medication on a survey conducted in 2010.

Mr. Fuhs emphasized that he did not raise this issue last year to bring into question the legitimate use of ADHD medication. He is focusing on those that use the medication recreationally, or as a study aid, and are not using it under the direction of a doctor. There is a risk for addiction, which is why they are controlled substances. Recreational or occasional use may not yield immediate effects, however mixing the medications with other drugs, substances, or alcohol could cause side effects such as: addiction, agitation, anxiety, and sleeplessness. In response to a question, Mr. Fuhs stated that prescribers do not receive benefits from the distributing company, however they may receive increased and consistent business by readily giving out

prescriptions. He noted there is an issue of fairness regarding those that take the medication without a prescription. He advised that it is a felony to illegally distribute the drug.

Mr. Fredericks suggested that the legal ramifications be the focus of the campaign in the future. Many students may not realize they are endangering their future success and risking a felony while taking the medication to study for a test. In response, a member suggested a hotline as a way to confidentially report illegal usage and distribution. Mr. Golden informed the members that according to recent research, the physical advantage is very minimal for those that take the drug episodically and do not actually have ADHD. He suggested implementing a warning when the prescriptions are filled and given to students.

Mr. Golden advised that the committee have a representative from the University Police Department to speak regarding enforcement or issues related to the medications. Sharon Dzik, Director of the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity can speak regarding the consequences from the University.

Mr. Fredericks asked if the Boynton Health Center has a drop box for unused prescription medication and was informed that they do not. Mr. Fuhs added that these are needed because if people dispose of medication via drainage system, the water supply is compromised.

Ms. Courtney suggested arranging a panel discussion to have all sides of the issue represented. The committee could develop questions in preparation and choose a direction based on the information presented by the panel.

- The committee planned to hold a panel discussion regarding alcohol usage within the University community. Minnesota's overall health ranking has dropped because the rate of alcohol consumption and alcohol related incidents has risen. Minnesota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota are the states leading in alcohol related health issues. Mr. Golden reported that in the past weekend, five students were admitted to the hospital for alcohol related issues. Mr. Sheldon and Professor Broadhurst expressed interest last year in organizing a forum to discuss the issues.
- The committee is interested in learning more about the required MNSCU course designed to teach students about binge drinking and its consequences. The CLA required course has not received positive reviews. In response to a question, Mr. Golden stated that 21-22 year old males are the highest population that engage in high-risk drinking or have had 5 or more drinks in one sitting.
- Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) created the Smoke-Free Campus Resolution in 2008. The committee is in support of the resolution, which has been gaining more attention recently. The Surgeon General was in town last week and at the end of her speech, she encouraged the movement toward smoke-free campuses in Minnesota.

Mr. Golden informed the committee that there is a correlation between the banning of smoking and a reduction in heart attacks in both smokers and non-smokers.

- He offered to present the results of a survey regarding health care for GLBTA and bi-sexual groups showing higher levels of uninsured, depression, and mental health issues. All college health data throughout Minnesota, over a five-year period, was merged to examine the population, which is unique because national health surveys do not request sexual orientation.
- The use of smart grid technology was discussed last year and the Morris campus has shown development in this area. Mr. Fredericks stated that he discussed sustainable energy with President Kaler and Jon Steadland, associate to the deputy chief of staff, President's Office. They discussed incorporating renewable energy into new building projects and renovations. The question they raised was: how can this be marketed in a time when the state is restricting funding? If it can be promoted as a cost saving technique or a way to generate profits for local businesses it may have a chance at being funded.

Mr. Golden suggested that a resolution be created surrounding sustainable energy and the promotion of local businesses. There is an incentive from the University for working with locally owned businesses. Mr. Fredericks and Ms. Johnson agreed to work on drafting a resolution.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Golden asked the committee to raise issues that were not on the pending issues list. The committee members raised the following issues:

- The Voter Identification Amendment was discussed as an issue that the committee should take a stance to oppose. It was suggested that in the interest of time, the committee support the statement of the EAD committee opposing the Voter Identification Amendment.
- Diversity and inclusion within the University including hiring practices and workshops.
- Alcohol related sexual assault.
- A proposal to facilitate University students to complete medical work outside of the United States.

## **ADJOURN**

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

Jeannine Rich  
University Senate Office