

[In these minutes: Open access textbooks, Medical Amnesty, Sustainability/renewable energy]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2012

[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), Brandon Breuer, Gyaltso Gurung, Joe Inhofer, Vivek Nagaraj, Nathaniel Schwab, Evan Vogel, and Moshe Volovik.

ABSENT: Nicole Conti.

GUESTS: Nicole Allen, David Ernst, Dave Golden, Troy Goodnough, Amy Short, Alfonso Sintjago, Shane Stennes.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Adam Matula noted the next Student Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting is December 5 at which time they will receive a legislative update. The Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition (MSLC) met last night and has a retreat this weekend in Morris. Bill Otto and Todd Iverson will be at the December Student Senate meeting to discuss the state budget forecast and the University's request.

2. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Joe Inhofer said that RSA is working on facilitating ride sharing among students.

Evan Vogel noted that Morris is having a mental health awareness week.

Gyaltso Gurung noted that a rain garden will be built in front of the new dormitory and recycling is being expanded to all residence halls.

Nathaniel Schwab said that MSA voted against a tobacco-free resolution so the topic will be brought back to committee before it is reintroduced at forum. A town hall was held yesterday on academic and registration issues. Today is the second annual World Fair.

Vivek Nagaraj reported that GAPSAs heard about mental health care at Boynton and asked questions regarding waiting lists and ways they are trying to optimize their services.

3. REPORTS FROM STUDENTS SERVING ON SENATE COMMITTEES

After receiving responses, Adam Matula noted that reports will be scheduled beginning in December.

4. OPEN ACCESS TEXTBOOKS

Alfonso Sintjago, a member of GAPSAs, joined the meeting to discuss open access textbooks and how to increase their usage at the University. GAPSAs is trying to increase awareness to the cost effectiveness of these resources, as well as the ways that the text can be redistributed, reused, and revised by instructors. Current textbook prices are not following the cost of inflation which can force students to only buy some of the textbooks for their courses. The College of Education and

Human Development (CEHD) has developed a catalog of open access books that it has reviewed.

GAPSA is supporting a library fund to cover journal fees and a state task force to create a larger list of open access textbooks. California and Washington already have models in place for reviewing and use of open access textbooks.

Q: Why are open access textbooks not used by more faculty?

A: They are a new item that is gaining traction. It also helps when the resource has been reviewed and recommended.

The committee was supportive of a resolution being brought to the Student Senate for action.

5. MEDICAL AMNESTY FOR STUDENTS

Dave Golden from Boynton Health Services joined the meeting to discuss the topic of medical amnesty. He said that this topic was looked at on campus a few years ago. Health advocates, who live in residence halls and Greek houses, are educated on this topic and are told to automatically call 911. The same is true for the operators of the Gopher Chauffeur who provide 12,000 rides per year. However there are some students who object to a call being made due to circumstances of the situation.

This question was asked on a health survey and only 55 percent responded that they would call 911. In 2011-12, there were 49 students admits to detox and the hospital; for 2012-13 there have already been 41.

The University does not have security, but instead a police force which upholds state law the same as city police officers. In practice, police are more concerned with someone's safety rather than issuing an underage drinking ticket. However, police do want to have the option to arrest someone if they are impeding medical personnel from doing their work.

Michigan and Illinois have a medical amnesty policy that is tied to their good Samaritan laws. It allows someone to call 911 without being arrested if they are underage.

Members made the following comments:

- Perception of police is an issue for some students and can affect how they act
- State law needs to be changed to avoid having to make arrangements with all police forces at and around University campuses
- MSLC and SAC should be involved as it involves students throughout the state and working with the legislature
- This is not just an undergraduate issue but can affect graduate and professional students who might be worried about calling 911

Q: Is there evidence that students have not called in this situation to avoid a ticket?

A: This situation is regularly reported by health advocates, but there is no way to count non-calls. The University had one death in its residence halls a few years ago, but nation-wide there are 4000 deaths per year due to acute alcohol poisoning.

Q: Does medical amnesty cover more than alcohol?

A: It can. The Michigan law includes other drugs that create a life-threatening situation.

Q: Is the caller safe if they are also using or possessing?

A: Yes in some states.

Q: What is the next step?

A: The Commissioner of Health for the state is Ed Ehlinger, who is the former director of Boynton. Democrats are also in power and might be receptive to a change in state law.

6. SYSTEM-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY/RENEWABLE ENERGY

Troy Goodnough, Sustainability Coordinator for the Morris campus, joined the meeting and was excited that this topic was being discussed. In 2006 Morris was the first campus to create his position, but now there are hundreds of people involved throughout the organization. A system-wide committee composed of faculty, staff, and students routinely meets and has several working groups. The Regents created a sustainability statement in 2004 and efforts are reported to them each year.

He said that Morris has two wind turbines which are producing 70 percent of the electricity for campus, which has reduced the carbon footprint by 20 percent. There is also a biomass gas facility for campus and a solar and thermal system at the fitness center. Morris students help to write grants, do outreach on campus, and involve the Morris community. The question is what will the campus do next.

Amy Short was hired as the Twin Cities Sustainability Director in 2008. Campus has enthusiasm, vision, and a forward-thinking approach due to passionate faculty, staff, and students. Her office tries to engage students in all area and provide a variety of experiences. A minor course is also offered which allows student teams to work with their hometowns to see where changes can be made.

Q: What is being planned?

A: This can depend on the campus. The University signed a Climate Commitment along with 670 other institutions committed to reducing their carbon footprints. Each campus has then developed a plan for how and when this will be achieved. Morris will increase renewable energy usage. The Twin Cities has opened a bike center. Duluth is opening more LEED-certified buildings.

Q: How close is each campus to achieving its goals?

A: Targets were set at 2050 for the Twin Cities, 2015 for Morris, and 2030 for Crookston and Duluth. All campuses are making progress.

Q: What is the cost to make campus more energy efficient?

A: For the Twin Cities, the first 10 years involved energy conservation which had a short payoff period through cost savings. Renewable energy options are now being explored and University research is helping to create new options.

7. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 6 AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

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

Becky Hippert
University Senate