

[In these minutes: Committee reports, spring semester items]

## **STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES**

**DECEMBER 13, 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), Gyaltso Gurung, Joe Inhofer, Nathaniel Schwab, and Moshe Volovik.

**ABSENT:** Brandon Breuer, Nicole Conti, Vivek Nagaraj, Evan Vogel.

**GUEST:** Emily Combs.

### **1. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Adam Matula reported that MSLC met last night to discuss the theme, slogan, and speakers for Support the U Day.

### **2. COUNCIL ON LIBERAL EDUCATION REPORT**

Moshe Volovik, student member of the Council on Liberal Education (CLE), noted that this committee reviews courses to fulfill the Twin Cities liberal education requirements for themes and core. He is the only undergraduate member, but there is one graduate student as well.

### **3. EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Emily Combs, student member of the Educational Policy Committee (SCEP), provided an update on the student release questions (SRQs). There was a meeting earlier today with representatives from SCEP, MSA, and COGS to discuss how more information can be released. Students would like an opt-out system but this would require a re-write of the questions.

Other SCEP topics this semester include:

- Grade context – a proposal to include percentiles on the transcript was discussed but SCEP is not recommending it be implemented as it would involve programming costs and the University would be the only institution with this information on its transcripts. Instead SCEP is considering other ways to provide this information.
- St. Paul campus isolation – no action is being taken at this time
- E-education and MOOCs – more resources are required to make these efforts feasible
- Combining graduate and undergraduate program evaluations as undergraduate programs are not now evaluated
- Redefining the credit hour to match national standards
- Student debt and advising efforts for timely graduation

Next semester SCEP will be discussing program evaluations, graduate student learning outcomes, and survey data on satisfaction.

Q: What is the discussion on the credit hour definition?

A: SCEP is trying to determine how much time faculty spend instructing for a course. The current definition also does not work well for online education. These definitions are used for financial aid eligibility so they need to be clear.

Q: Does SCEP cover all campuses?

A: Yes but some policies do not apply to Crookston and Duluth.

#### **4. DISCUSSION OF TOPICS FOR SPRING SEMESTER**

Members noted the following items for spring semester:

- Medical amnesty
- Sustainability
- Fossil fuel divestment
- Open textbooks

#### **5. DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR THE TWIN CITIES CAMPUS**

Twin Cities members discussed the issue of a tobacco-free campus and decided that it should be brought to the Twin Cities Student Delegation for further discussion and then action spring semester.

Twin Cities members then discussed the issue of a light rail transit fare-free zone and how likely it might be to have the Metro Transit agree to this proposal. Members would like to ask the administration to pursue this issue.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

Becky Hippert  
University Senate