

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 19, 2014

[In these minutes: Update from OSA; Update from UMD Student Life; Discussion of Resolution: Calling for Improvement to the Student Services Fee Process]

[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: Patricia Jones Whyte (chair), Thomas Bilder, Peter Haeg, Rebecca Houske, BreAnn Graber, Kyle Kroll, Kyungbin Lee, Matthew Loomis, Nitish Mittal, Jillian Ryks, Brandt Tharp, Amy Thie, Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte

GUESTS: Danita Brown Young, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, OSA; Sara Carvell, Associate Director, OSA; Lisa Erwin, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, UMD; Megan Sweet, Chief of Staff, OSA.

REGRETS: Shivani Kushwaha, Michael Stebleton, Cecelia Stevens, Carlos Torelli, Lanqiu Wu

ABSENT: Teddi Grego, Kristen Lewis,

1. UPDATE FROM OFFICE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS (OSA)

Dr. Jones Whyte called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. She then welcomed Danita Brown Young, Vice Provost for Student Affairs, and Megan Sweet, Chief of Staff, OSA.

Dr. Brown Young updated members on a recent meeting of the vice chancellors from across the system. They shared their struggles and solutions as a way to ensure student success. Topics that were discussed include:

- Sexual assault and the “It’s On Us” campaign. What is being done in regard to the prevention and education around sexual misconduct? Making sure that all units are collaborating to address this issue.
 - A member asked a question regarding a possible affirmative consent proposal. Dr. Brown Young said that there is a work group, which includes students, working with the Aurora Center. They are not currently ready to make a decision regarding an affirmative consent proposal. Consent is one part of the review that is currently being conducted, but they are not at a point of making a final decision.
- How can they prepare for \$90 million in cuts over the next 5 years? How are students being consulted during the process? Programs will assess their effectiveness and their processes.

- How is Student Affairs telling their story? How do the services offered by Student Affairs factor into the Strategic Plan? They need to ensure that the voice of Student Affairs is heard and expressed within the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- The Campus Climate work group has been listening to feedback from the University community in a series of conversations.

In closing, Dr. Brown Young encouraged the committee to contact OSA at any time and they will bring items to the committee as well.

2. UPDATE FROM UMD STUDENT LIFE

Lisa Erwin, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, UMD, provided members with an update. She highlighted the following points using a Prezi presentation located here: https://prezi.com/qvt6_u6i6zsa/umd-update-for-scsa-november-2014/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy

- The six goal areas of Student Life are aligned to a UMD strategic plan that was adopted in 2012 and they are:
 - Learning
 - Cultural Competence
 - Wellness
 - The Student Life Experience
 - Resources
 - Assessment
- Budget
 - SSF
 - Tuition and State Support
 - Auxiliaries – These areas are reported differently at UMD than they are on other campuses. The auxiliaries include: housing, dining services, bookstores, and parking. They are self supporting.
- Great Spaces for UMD Student – Dr. Erwin has made it a focus to ensure that spaces were renovated to better meet the needs of the students.
- Parent Programs
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/d.umn.edu/umd-parents-family-news/>
- UMD Shared Governance
 - Student Educational Experiences committee is similar to the SCSA
 - UMD med school and pharmacy students pay the GAPSA fee, as they are represented by GAPSA.

In closing, Dr. Erwin said that she would bring issues forward as they arise, especially those that have a system-wide impact.

3. RESOLUTION: CALLING FOR IMPROVEMENT TO THE STUDENT SERVICES FEE PROCESS

Mr. Kroll presented a resolution he wrote titled “Resolution: CALLING FOR Improvement to the Student Services Fee Process.” The resolution is appended to these minutes.

He explained that the resolution hopes to solve issues, such as groups receiving fees and not spending them appropriately and also increase the transparency of the fees process. The resolution will not be voted on at this meeting, as there will be continued consultation on it.

Members then had the following questions and comments:

- What is the current auditing process?
 - Deloitte, an outside company, conducts the audits. The resolution calls for an auditor to be hired, which could be more affordable and serve as a resource to student groups regarding accounting processes.
 - Members mentioned the possibility of hiring a graduate student as the auditor.
- Ms. Sweet advised members to not only consider this resolution as a way to increase accountability, but to also consider the cost of implementing the fee distribution process. The more complicated it becomes, the more it will cost.
- The Student Services Fees breakdown can be found here: http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/fees/general_fees/student_service_fees.html
- Members were conflicted as to the need to provide the fee breakdown to students in their account statements.
- Dr. Jones Whyte suggested a subcommittee of SCSA student members be formed to collaborate on the upcoming consultation. The following members will form the subcommittee: Becca Houske, Kyle Kroll, and Nitish Mittal.

The edited resolution will return to the committee in February.

4. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Jones Whyte invited members to raise new issues for future consideration:

- Student parking on the days of Vikings games
- Effectiveness of the Paratransit Service

Hearing no further business, Dr. Jones Whyte adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR Improvement to the Student Services Fee Process, As Outlined By This Resolution*

* Draft as presented to SCSA on 11/20/14 - Consultation will result in changes

Introduced by Member Kroll

WHEREAS, the student services fee (the “Fee”) is decided by the Student Services Fee Committee (the “SSFC”);

WHEREAS, administrative units and student groups submit applications for Fee funding, which applications are considered by the SSFC and allotted Fee funding ranging from zero to the requested amount (the Fee “process”);

WHEREAS, the Office of Student Affairs, which advises and oversees the SSFC and the Fee process, employs private auditors each year to investigate whether or not administrative units and a rotating subset of--not all--student groups use their funding in accordance with the SSFC’s recommendations and Fee funding allotments;

WHEREAS, it is difficult for the SSFC to understand, assess, and oversee the use of Fee funding because the audits are not tailored to the SSFC’s specific purposes, and the student members of the SSFC are usually not well-versed in finance and accounting;

WHEREAS, the SSFC lacks understandable audit information for each student group year-to-year and would benefit from audit information personalized to the needs of the SSFC from year-to-year;

WHEREAS, there is a well-settled, pervasive opinion that administrative units and student groups do not always follow the recommendations of the SSFC and Fee guidelines, nor do they always use excess funds wisely or in accordance with Fee use limitations;

WHEREAS, there are no procedures in place to ensure that administrative units and student groups utilize Fee funding according to SSFC recommendations and Fee guidelines;

WHEREAS, all students would benefit from the recapture of excess funds allotted or funds utilized in contravention of the SSFC’s recommendations and Fee

guidelines, in the form of either a reduced future Fee assessment or better use of Fee funding;

WHEREAS, administrative units and student groups would be more responsible to the SSFC--and, transitively, the student body, itself--if a procedure existed to hold administrative units and student groups to account for unauthorized and disallowed use of Fee funding;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of students desire and would benefit from increased Fee transparency in addition to the disclosures already provided on the SSFC's website and listed in the Student Account;

WHEREAS, in recent years, the SSFC has been inundated with funding requests from student groups, and the current application material and process could benefit from efficiency and simplicity improvements;

WHEREAS, all students would be indirectly benefitted from improvements to the Fee process;

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Student Affairs Committee approves of improvements to the Fee process including the following:

1. that the Office for Student Affairs hire its own auditor (the "Fee auditor") to oversee the utilization, use, and spending of Fee funding allotted to all administrative units and student groups;
2. that the new Fee auditor provide resources and consultation to administrative units and student groups receiving Fee funding or preparing Fee requests;
3. that administrative units and student groups be held, within reason, to the funding recommendations made by the SSFC through the use of the Office for Student Affairs' fee auditor, and any unreasonable, substantial, or disallowed (by the Guidelines, Protocols, or other rules) deviations be reclaimed by the Office for Student Affairs and applied to future Fee assessment reductions;
4. that unused, excess funds allotted to administrative units and student organizations be recovered by the Office for Student Affairs if they cannot be utilized in a way reasonably compliant with the SSFC's recommendations, the Guidelines, the Protocols, or other rules;
5. that the Office for Student Affairs fully implement the Student Affairs Committee's new rules regarding the removal of SSFC

members for only legitimate, good cause reasons, on petition by any student group that applies for Fee funding;

6. that the written application for student groups be streamlined to include only the most important information, in bullet point form, about a student group's history, and that the application's length not exceed three pages;
7. that the presentations for student groups be uniform in structure, and that the Office for Student Affairs construct a presentation template so as to achieve this purpose;
8. that the SSFC be given the opportunity to submit questions to applicant administrative units and student groups in advance of the administrative unit's or student group's presentation, which questions the administrative unit or student group must be prepared to answer after its presentation;
9. that the SSFC be allowed to respond to public comments made during any public forums or proceedings via the voice of the SSFC Chair or the Chair's designee when providing a response would reduce confusion, clarify the truth in regards to an issue, or address plans for future SSFC action to moot the complaint made;
10. that the Student Group Sub-fee assessed to students shall be different for undergraduate students and graduate and professional students, such that the amount assessed for undergraduate students shall be the amount of Fee funding allotted to student groups by the SSFC that primarily target their services, programs, and events to undergraduate students, and the amount assessed for graduate and professional students shall be the amount of Fee funding allotted to student groups by the SSFC that primarily target their services, programs, and events to graduate and professional students;
11. that members of the Student Senate shall serve as selectors for the SSFC instead of appointees from MSA and GAPSA, due to the Student Senate's independence and neutral interests with regard to the amount of Fee funding allotted to any administrative unit or student group, and a representative panel of selectors shall be chosen from the Student Senate's ranks for such purpose each Fall by the whole Student Senate at its first meeting of the year;

RESOLVED, that the Student Affairs Committee supports the move to break up the Fee into the following parts, to be displayed separately in the Student Account:

- A. Student Activities Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to student groups, except that the amount listed for undergraduate students shall be the amount of Fee funding allotted to student groups by the SSFC that primarily target services, programs, and events to undergraduate students, and the amount listed for graduate and professional students shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to student groups that primarily target services, programs, and events to graduate and professional students;
- B. Administrative Unit Sub-fee, which shall list the following:
 - a. Boynton Health Service Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to Boynton Health Service for any services provided;
 - b. Learning Abroad Center Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to the Learning Abroad Center;
 - c. Northrop Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to Northrop Auditorium and related programs and events;
 - d. Radio K Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to Radio K for its broadcasting operations;
 - e. Minnesota Daily Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to the Minnesota Daily;
 - f. Student Conflict Resolution Center Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to the Student Conflict Resolution Center;
 - g. Aurora Center Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to the Aurora Center;
 - h. Recreational Sports Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to Recreational Sports for its operations, capital expenditures, improvements, and any other services provided;
 - i. Student Union Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to Coffman Memorial Union and Student Unions and Activities;
 - j. University Student Legal Service Sub-fee, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted to the University Student Legal Service;

- k. and any other Sub-fee, appropriately named, which shall be the amount of the Fee allotted for each additional administrative unit that receives any Fee funding;
- C. the MSA Sub-fee, which shall be the special assessment to all undergraduate students and represents the amount of the Fee allotted to MSA;
- D. the GAPSA Sub-fee, which shall be the special assessment to all graduate and professional students and represents the amount of the Fee allotted to GAPSA;
- E. and any other special assessment Sub-fee, appropriately named, which shall be the special assessment to students in a particular academic program, for whose benefit the assessment is made, and represents the amount of the Fee allotted to a student council representing solely the students in such particular program;

RESOLVED, that the officers or support staff of the Student Affairs Committee shall notice all parties referenced herein of the passage and language of this resolution.