

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (SCSA)

October 21, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting

[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 represents the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

[**In these minutes:** Student Services Fees Update, Police Department Initiatives, Committee on Committees Review, Student Parent HELP Center Update]

PRESENT: Peter Haeg (chair), Matthew Loomis, Kari Volkman Carlson, Kat Yushchenko, Xinran Duan, Nicholas Goldsmith, Thomas Bilder, Nitish Mittal, Patricia Whyte Jones, Jethro Land, Lisa Erwin, Kyle Kroll, Megan Sweet, Sara Carvell, Susan Mantell, Jillian Riks, David Blank, Kendre Turonie

REGRETS: Amy Thie

ABSENT: Michael Stebelton, Elli Bipes, Rebecca Houske, Cecilia Stevens, Lin Liu,

GUESTS: Matt Clark, chief of police, University Police Department; Steven Pearthree, Fang Yu and Ann Waltner, Committee on Committees representatives; Susan Warfield, program director, Student Parent HELP Center; Sara Carvell, associate director, Office for Student Affairs

1. Welcome and Introductions: Peter Haeg, chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

2. Student Services Fees Process: Sara Carvell, associate director, Office for Student Affairs, explained the student services fee allocation process and asked for three student volunteers and one faculty or staff member volunteer to serve on the Student Services Fee Selector Committee. Matthew Loomis expressed interest. An email will be sent to the committee soliciting additional volunteers.

3. Police Department Initiatives: Matthew Clark, police chief, University Police Department, thanked the committee for having him, and said he started in July after serving 22 years for the City of Minneapolis. He provided the following list of current departmental initiatives and updates:

- **Communication:** They've redesigned their website with up to date information and they are trying to update Facebook regularly. Their Twitter handle is @umpdgopher, and will be used to send out alerts and other useful information.
- **Beat officers:** They are trying to get to know the campus community by using beat officers on bikes and on foot. Some officers will be permanently assigned as beat officers and one investigator of the five on staff will be walking campus every day.
- **Zombie Nerf Battle:** They are working with the student Zombie Association to organize a Nerf battle this upcoming winter, as a way for students and officers to get to know one another.

- Sexual assault: This is a priority initiative for the department. They support assault victims and try to convince victims to report. “You Can Tell Us” is their campaign.
- Underage drinking and safe drinking: There is a University policy about drinking and a MN statute on underage drinking. However, he said, the department understands students are learning to make responsible choices and their biggest concern is that drinking happens safely. If a student calls for a friend in need of medical help, the department will help and the caller will not be cited. However, Clark said, if a resident finds a student they may get a citation for consuming. Education is a big part of prevention, he added, and the Department is working with the Department of Public Safety to provide information on safe drinking.
- Crime statistics: Campus crime rates are at .2% of the city of Minneapolis crime numbers. The majority of crime on campus is theft or burglary. Clark said that Bait Bikes, bikes armed with GPS locators, have led to twenty arrests.
- Crime alerts: They are important for student awareness, but Clark stated that the Department of Education also requires his department to provide them. Requirements include crime alerts in their jurisdiction and the immediate streets bordering. For off campus, the requirement is that they consider which incidents would be beneficial for student safety to report. In response to asking the committee whether these alerts were helpful, some felt that too many crime alerts make it feel that it’s not safe on campus. Others stated that they appreciate getting the off campus alerts. Megan Sweet, chief of staff, Office of Student Affairs, said her office has heard positive feedback on the alerts.
- Active Shooter Training: Haeg asked if there were plans to refresh the training. Clark responded that “Run Fight Hide,” out of Texas, is the best video they’ve found. The department sent four officers to Active Shooter Instructor Certification, and from now through 2017 have a plan to further increase that training.

4. Committee on Committees Review: Steve Pearthree, and Professors Ann Waltner and Fa Yu, presented as representatives from Committee on Committees (ConC). They explained that the ConC charge is to review every Senate committee every five years. This year Student Affairs is up for review. They asked the committee if it felt the charge was adequately matched to the topics the committee covered. Patricia Whyte Jones stated that yes, especially this year with attention being paid to Student Services Fees Committee. Kyle Kroll thought that perhaps student safety should be added to the charge. Lisa Erwin, vice chancellor for student life, Duluth campus, stated that the charge is very broadly written to encompass all five campuses, but the work is focused to the Twin Cities campus. She believes the charge could be stronger if there was recognition that each system campus approaches student affairs a bit differently.

Kroll asked if there was a subcommittee related to duty “e.” (To provide for a Student Services Fee Subcommittee composed of two faculty representatives, five student representatives (one each from Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Twin Cities graduate/professional, and Twin Cities undergraduate), and four voting ex officio staff members (one each from Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Twin Cities with the system

campus representatives appointed by the Vice Chancellor of each campus and the Twin Cities representative appointed by the Office of Student Development). As far as anyone remembered, there is not and has never been such a subcommittee. Sweet added that it would not make sense to exist because it's a different process on each campus. It was agreed that duty "e" of the charge should be updated.

In response to a ConC question as to whether committee members feel they receive adequate instruction to function in their role on the committee, Jillian Ricks stated that she was confused for the first couple of meetings, but got the hang of it. Kroll thought it was a broader representative issue and that there should be an orientation for all new representatives, whether student, faculty, or staff.

When asked about the make-up of the committee and whether the right representation was appointed, Kroll mentioned that it might make sense to have MSA, PSG, and COGS formally represented. Erwin added that there are student governments on all five campuses and the role of the committee could be clarified with regard to the system campuses. Sweet stated that there is some confusion about what is in the scope and what is out of the scope of Senate attention. It would be helpful to know what issues belong in Senate discussions, she said.

5. Student Parent HELP Center Update: Susan Warfield, program director, Student Parent HELP Center (Center), provided an update on the HELP Center, which has existed at the University since 1967. Their mission is to serve low-income undergraduate students who are parents. The issue of whether the Center serves graduate students has come up many times. Warfield said they have never been charged to do anything other than provide assistance to undergraduates and have not been provided any funding to expand on that mission. She said staff are trained in a Social Work Model programming and have strong contacts with the external community, as many of the needs their students have cannot be met on campus.

Warfield said the Center offers a state postsecondary child care grant, state funded, that can provide up to \$1,300 per term per child in child care assistance, while students are attending school. Graduate students have expressed a lot of interest in this aid, she said, but the grants are not designed for graduate students.

Another form of aid that has been available is the federal CCAMPIS grant. It is designated primarily for campus-based childcare programs, but the HELP Center applied for and has been able to use it for childcare assistance funding. The Center reapplied for a second four-year cycle of the funding, Warfield added, but they missed renewal by one point.

This CCAMPIS grant, offered through the federal TRIO office, could potentially be a source of graduate student childcare assistance, provided undergraduate students needs have been met first, she said. Warfield offered to collaborate with anyone or any department who would be interested in working on a future application, combining the

request for undergraduate and graduate students, using her previous successful grant submission as a template.

She shared that Lauren Mitchell and Nicole Scott, associated with COGS, met with the Women's Faculty Cabinet seeking assistance in forming a Student Parent Group for graduate and professional students. The Center is sponsoring this group and the first meeting will be November 3rd. They are not getting any extra funding for this group, said Warfield, but hope to gather information on what graduate students might want or need. Mitchell and Scott are working on getting the word out about this group.

In talking about campus childcare options, Warfield stated that the College of Education and Human Development oversees the University Childcare Center. The other two on campus are student cooperatives; they are not part of the University system. She said she is aware that students have a difficult time getting in to the University childcare system because the current wait time is eighteen months to two years and students are gone by the time a space becomes available. She added that the University Childcare Center did have a big expansion about three years ago and almost doubled in size. The difficulty for further expansion for any of the childcare facilities, she said, is that there is physically no place to expand. Expansion would have to happen off campus.

Kroll stated that COGS and PSG are hoping to expand resources for graduate and professional student parents, both on campus and at the legislative level. Warfield said that any effort would require a unified voice, and that double the funding and a dedicated full time staff, along with a charge from administration.

In response to a question about lactation resources, Warfield stated that she has been working with Peg Lonquist, director of the Women's Center. There is a lack of resources for lactation, she said, and so she and Peg started the Lactation Advocacy Committee, which has been in existence for about five years. As of now there are eighteen rooms on campus. For comparisons sake, Warfield shared that U.C. San Diego has 54 rooms. She is currently working with a couple of students on a mobile lactation pod, and hopes by the end of year to have it available for use. Warfield said that she's had students stay out an extra term, transfer, or decide not to breastfeed because of the lack of facilities.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patricia Straub
University Senate