

2014-15 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

APRIL 3, 2015

P&A SENATE MINUTES: No. 6

The sixth meeting of the P&A Senate for 2014-15 was convened in 5-125 Moos Tower on Friday, April 3, 2015, at 9:35 a.m. System campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing the roll as present were 27 P&A members and 10 alternates. Chair Katherine Dowd presided.

1. ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD (OUA) WINNER

Etty DeVeaux announced that the College of Science and Engineering Student Services was chosen as this year's recipient of the OUA, with the Office of Measurement Services receiving honorable mention. The award will be presented at the May meeting. She thanked the subcommittee members for their work this year.

2. P&A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Katherine Dowd, Chair of the P&A Consultative Committee (PACC) and Senate, reported that the President gave his State of the University Address yesterday, which included information on strategic planning, operational excellence, and the Upgrade. He also mentioned the P&A Senate Forum on May 6 in relation to work on implementation of strategic planning.

The Regents met last Friday. One topic was review of the Twin Cities campus master plan. The declining high school population will be affecting the University soon and this population will not increase again until the late 2020s. Students living on or close to campus, versus commuting, should also be considered in future planning. Other topics were strategic planning metrics for measuring the success of international work, updates from each vice president on operational excellence, and one-year contracts for P&A employees. This item can be raised with OHR after the job family study and Upgrade are completed.

Members then had a short discussion of one-year contracts versus a proposal in CLA for multi-year contracts and the no cause requirement for non-renewals as a performance issue for supervisors when employees are non-renewed for expressing contradictory opinions.

3. P&A SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Benefits and Compensation (B&C) Subcommittee

Marilyn McClaskey said that the subcommittee is considering vacation time for P&A employees on 9 and 10 month appointments. They also heard about the movement of funds for Regents Scholarship from Julie Tonneson and learned about sick leave reporting in the new system.

Communications Subcommittee

Sandra Ecklein reported that the Communications Subcommittee sent a survey to get feedback on the P&A Senate website and over 400 responses have been received which will inform future updates.

Outreach Subcommittee

Kevin Haroian reported that the Outreach Subcommittee has been working on elections.

Professional Development and Recognition (PD&R) Subcommittee

Etty DeVeaux said that the final brown bag for the year was held on March 24 at the Duluth campus. The session was well-attended and informative. PD&R members enjoyed their time at Duluth and were thanked for attending in person. PD&R will plan one of next year's brown bags on a system campus again. She then noted that the President referred to the P&A Senate Forum during his address yesterday. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 from 12:00-2:00 pm in 402 Walter Library. Information will be sent to all P&A in the next week.

4. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Neil Anderson stated that on March 27, Provost Hanson talked with the Regents about strategic plan implementation steps and metrics. To gauge progress towards the goals, Provost Hanson is looking at data gathered by the Office for Institutional Research, specific steps recommended in the plan, and what the continuity team formulates as more nuanced ways to capture some of the deeper goals of culture change. Along with current measures in areas such as student learning, student satisfaction, graduation rates, post-graduation outcomes, research excellence, scholarly impact, engagement, diversity and operational excellence, the Strategic Plan also has goals to measure broadening interdisciplinary work.

Priorities already under way include integrating strategic plan goals into the annual compact process, the infusion of Grand Challenges into Liberal Education requirements, support for interdisciplinary initiatives, and a Grand Challenges Research team comprised of 30 faculty members to identify areas that can be embraced as institutional priorities with robust interdisciplinary work.

He encouraged everyone to look for opportunities for how their unit can be involved.

5. CIVIL SERVICE SENATE REPORT

No report.

6. DISCUSSION WITH SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Information Technologies – James MacDonald
Social Concerns – Dave Golden

Information Technologies Committee

Jim MacDonald, Chair of the Information Technologies Committee (SCIT), said that the committee has dealt with the following main issues this year:

- Upgrade and Portal changes
- Data storage for researchers – publically available at the University for free versus private, with a back-up requirement. Data curation development with the Libraries is a related concept since data needs to still be available when media changes.
- Alignment for desktop support
- New Data Security Policy to rate data

Q: One issue for data storage is that some research collaborations want proprietary access to the data which is not possible if it is stored publically. Has this issues been discussed by SCIT?

A: It has not been brought to the committee but could be a topic for next year.

Q: Has local desktop support been eliminated?

A: No, but it is now provided by OIT.

Social Concerns Committee

Dave Golden, Chair of the Social Concerns Committee, noted that this committee has a broad charge, which allows it to deal with a wide range of issues. A focus of the committee 10 years ago was the University's financial investments and divestment from companies involved in human rights violations. Divestment is now harder for the University given how its investments are spread.

Other topics that the committee has addressed in the last few years include alcohol usage, investment in Sudan, triclosan ban, tobacco-free campus, lactation, and the P&A personal holiday. This year attention has focused on food on campus – how it comes in, what is available, sustainability, and proximity – and what a complex process it is.

Two other topics that the committee may address later this year or next fall include banning the box on undergraduate applications which asks if the applicant has been convicted of a crime and a possible increase in the state alcohol tax. A recent Boynton survey found that 30-35 percent of students report engaging in high risk drinking one of more times in a two week period. This ranks the University in the middle to lower third in the Big Ten, but the state ranks high in alcohol use even though it is ranked high in indicators of a health population. The state alcohol tax has not increased in some time, and an increase typically leads to a decrease in usage, especially among youth who are most affected by price. This has been the effect from the increase in the tobacco tax.

The University does require all incoming freshmen to complete an online module entitled Alcohol Edu, along with modules on financial literacy and sexual assault. Typically 90 percent of students complete the modules before Welcome Week, which makes a dent in high-risk drinking.

Q: Has the committee discussed the decision by Minneapolis to ban styrofoam by restaurants and its implications on campus?

A: It has not been discussed but he knows that UDS tries not to use those products.

Q: What is the difference in high-risk drinking rates between undergraduates and graduate students?

A: 30 percent of graduate students report high-risk drinking while 35-38 percent of undergraduates do, as the peak usage time is 21-23 years of age. The responses are also higher among males.

Q: What sexual health programming is available for students?

A: All freshmen are required to take the online module, Haven. The Aurora Center provides programming on campus, focusing on prevention and education, but also serves as a resource for assault victims and their families and friends. Step UP is a bystander education program that promotes early intervention.

Q: What has happened with the Workers' Rights Consortium and the Designated Supplies Program that was discussed about five year ago?

A: These topics have not been discussed by the committee recently but could be looked at next year.

Q: How is the tobacco-free campus process going? It appears that people are finding nooks on campus to smoke and without receptacles, cigarette butts are littering the ground.

A: There has been an overall reduction but the University is aware of some hot spots. Increased communication and signage will be coming, but the University is still relying on social enforcement and the expectation that everyone follows this as it is University policy.

7. 2015-16 ELECTIONS Action

Elections were held and the results were:

- Chair-elect – ETTY DeVeaux
- Benefits and Compensation Co-Chairs – Candice Kraemer and Ian Ringgenberg
- Communications Chair – Linda Eells
- Outreach Chair – Kevin Haroian
- Professional Development and Recognition Chair – Sherri Boone
- Senators – Linda Eells, Edward Eiffler, Shannon Farrell, Troy Goodnough, Jason Jacobson, Joel Mixon

8. P&A SENATE OLD BUSINESS

NONE

9. P&A SENATE NEW BUSINESS

NONE

10. P&A SENATE ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 am.

**Rebecca Hippert
Abstractor**