

CLASSROOM ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2001

[In these minutes: Welcome, Committee Update, Action Plan to Work with the Academy of Distinguished Teachers on the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan Issue, Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan Update.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Denise Guerin, Chair, Steve Fitzgerald, William Hanson, Kenneth Heller, James Perry, Jane Phillips, Martin Sampson, Steven Sperber

REGRETS: Bernard Gulacheck, Steve Spehn, Nelson Rhodus

ABSENT: Bobbi Cordano, Janice Smith

OTHER(S): Nancy McGlynn

I). Professor Guerin called the meeting to order, and asked all present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Guerin provided members with a brief summary on the Committee's efforts over the past year. The Committee has spent a significant amount of time garnering support from various groups for a statement that bolsters the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan. In addition, time has been spent on issues involving maintenance of classrooms as well as other Facilities Management initiatives.

III). The business before the Committee today includes developing an action plan to work with the Academy of Distinguished Teachers Twin Cities Steering Committee. Professor Guerin prefaced the discussion by stating there is a real need to get both faculty and student involvement in the classroom issue. Hence, the desire to have the Classroom Advisory Subcommittee and the Academy of Distinguished Teachers Twin Cities Steering Committee join forces to bring about greater support for classrooms.

An engaging discussion followed concerning the issues facing the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan. The two major issues are:

- No recurring funding dollars are being designated for classroom upgrades and maintenance.
- Tremendous need for technology in classrooms

In a resource constrained institution such as the University of Minnesota there needs to be an institutional policy supporting an endeavor of this magnitude, and there isn't. While SCEP, ACEP, SCFP, SCIT, the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and the Dean's

Council etc. all support the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan, central administration has yet to provide the recurring financial resources to drive this initiative. Professor Heller commented that the classroom technology upgrade is important for both faculty and students. The project has support and consensus. He added that given the enormity of the University budget, the cost of the Classroom Technology Plan is miniscule, and rather than continuing to conduct on-going discussions on the matter, suggested that action be taken to get it done now!

Member's suggestions to tackle the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan issue included:

1. Instead of trying to get a large group of supporters to rally around this cause, it would be more effective to have a small group, such as this Subcommittee, focus its efforts on making headway on this issue. Big problems that everyone identifies as a big problem never seem to get settled. This is defined problem that can be resolved. Inviting key players from central administration and inundating them with the facts on why this issue is so important will make a very powerful statement.
2. Keep the three key issues facing the Classroom Technology Upgrade Plan separate:
 - Technology and technology funding
 - Scheduling and utilization of classrooms
 - Facilities issues including custodial support and maintenance
3. Set up a series of meetings with key players from central administration to discuss the classroom issue. Agenda items for these meeting will include identifying the issue at large, providing concrete examples that will include case studies and outlining solutions to the problem. Then, input from administration will be solicited on what the Classroom Advisory Subcommittee can do to change the funding of classrooms at the University.
4. Publicize the issue in order to raise awareness and ultimately fix the problem.

A small working group comprised of Professor Guerin, Professor Sampson and Steve Fitzgerald was established and charged with drafting an outline of what should occur at the meeting(s) with central administration. The working group will present their recommendations to CAS members for input at the next meeting on January 25, 2002 at 12:30.

IV). Steve Fitzgerald of Classroom Management provided Subcommittee members with a brief status update on the Classroom Management Upgrade Project to date.

V). With no further business, Professor Guerin adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate

