

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 13, 2002

[In these minutes: Welcome and Announcement Regarding Next Year's Chair, WRC Update, Potential Agenda Items for 2002-2003]

[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: Robert Brown, Chair, Karen Holtmeier, Yvonne Redmond-Brown, Jean Niemiec, Julie Sweitzer, George French, Margaret Kuchenreuther, Judi Linder, Mark Pedelty, Cameron Brauer, Kari Lindeman,

REGRETS: Laura Hamilton, Aimee Martin

ABSENT: Greg Schooler, Catherine Forseide-Hussain, John Jensen, John Beatty, Luis Ramos-Garcia, Patrick Buckle, Anne Decker, Andrew Pomroy, Brian Wiedenmeier

I). Professor Brown called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II). Professor Brown announced that Professor Pedelty will chair the Social Concerns Committee during the 2002-2003 academic year.

III). WRC Update: Nancy Hoyt, Associate General Counsel, who was unable to attend today's meeting, provided members with a brief written report on the recent WRC University Caucus meeting in Washington, D.C.

Professor Brown commented on the favorable press published by the Minnesota Daily about the WRC. He also noted that MPRIG compromised its position on the WRC issue.

IV). The amended April 15, 2002 minutes were unanimously approved.

V). Ideas and discussion concerning potential agenda items for the 2002-2003 academic year:

- Based on the Israeli/Palestinian crisis there is an organized effort asking University's to divest of Israeli stock or at least take a position on the conflict. This can be viewed as a human rights issue, support of the UN issue as well as a free press issue.
- Propose to the University that they manage their own investment portfolio in a socially responsible way and allow participants in the retirement program to choose a socially responsible investment option. Mention was made that TIAA

Cref was pressured to offer a socially responsible fund. The fund is called 'Social Choice' and it is a balanced fund.

- Green environmental issues such as the University's use of energy, waste reduction recycling as well as examination of the University's use and composition of its fleet.
- Mt. Graham update.
- Review of the Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA) competition and anti-discrimination policy that addresses the use of Native American mascots in demeaning and stereotypical ways.
- Update on any issues faced by the GLBT.
- Related to animal rights, investigate the role of biotechnology in relation to animal production, e.g., the use of BGH to promote milk production in cows.
- Discussion regarding the University's move towards privatization and corporate-like behavior and how this impacts students.

VI). Professor Brown thanked members for their input and participation on the Committee. Members thanked Professor Brown for chairing. The Committee will probably meet the same time next year, but this will be confirmed once the schedule has been finalized. With no further business, Professor Brown adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate