

SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL CONCERNS
MINUTES OF MEETING
APRIL 26, 2004

[In these minutes: Sustainability and Energy Conservation Policy Work Group Update, Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Resolutions, Proxy Voting, Lehman Brothers, Middle East Forum 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: Margaret Kuchenreuther chair, Jennifer Oliphant, Ruth Taylor, Karen Holtmeier, Greg Schooler, David Fox, Mani Subramani, Kara Ferguson, Joel Helfrich, Brian Wachutka

REGRETS: Julie Sweitzer, Melissa Williams

ABSENT: Barbara Boysen, Ravi Norman, Susan Von Bank, Thomas Augst, Robert Blair, Kenneth Heller, Twyla Treanor, Bobak Ha¹Eri, Sarah Keller, Joseph Nowak

OTHERS: Ted Held, Jewish Community Relations Council; Britt Johnsen, Minnesota Daily; Sara Rostampour, MPRIIG; Katie Tharp, MPRIIG

GUEST: Al Sullivan, Executive Associate Vice Provost, Office for Planning & Academic Affairs

I). Professor Kuchenreuther called the meeting to order and requested those present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Kuchenreuther introduced Executive Associate Vice Provost Al Sullivan from the Office for Planning & Academic Affairs and Co-Chair of the Sustainability and Energy Conservation Policy Work Group to the Committee. Vice Provost Sullivan began by providing a brief introduction describing how the Work Group was established as well as outlining its goal,

which is to formulate a policy on sustainability and energy conservation for the University.

Next, Vice Provost Sullivan distributed the Work Group¹'s draft policy on Sustainability and Energy Efficiency. He highlighted the following from the draft policy:

- The University is committed to incorporating sustainability into its teaching, research and outreach roles in addition to the operations that support them.
- The sustainability process will be guided by the wise use of all resources within a flexible framework that integrates environmental, social and economic factors.
- The University will meet and aspire to exceed all applicable regulatory requirements.
- Specific objectives and targets will be developed by administrative units in the processes of:
 - Physical planning and development
 - Operations
 - Transportation
 - Purchasing
 - Waste Management and Abatement
- The importance of energy efficiency in the overall process of campus sustainability will be realized.
- Innovative, high visibility research projects will be established.
- Sustainability and energy efficiency education will be provided.
- Administrative policies and procedures to support the efforts listed above will be developed and maintained.
- There will be an annual report to the Board of Regents using the University Plan Performance and Accountability Report.
- The President will designate one administrative position responsible for reporting back to him on the progress of the Work Group and its goals.

To conclude, Vice Provost Sullivan stated that the policy crafted by the Work Group will likely go before the Board of Regents in June 2004 for approval.

Questions directed at Vice Provost Sullivan from members included:

- Is there an evaluation process for the objectives and targets outlined in the proposed policy? The University will measure its performance against the objectives using the University Plan Performance and Accountability Report.
- Do other institutions have objectives and targets, which the University can use as a baseline in developing its own set of goals? Yes. Additionally, the University has a great deal of expertise within its own faculty base when it comes to setting these goals.
- Will outreach be made to the coordinate campuses in terms of developing the objectives and targets? Contact has been made with the coordinate campuses to garner their support and involvement in this initiative.
- What can the Social Concerns Committee do to support the efforts of the Sustainability and Energy Conservation Policy Work Group? The Committee can definitely be supportive of the Work Group¹'s efforts. For example, members with expertise in any of the areas discussed are encouraged to volunteer their time and become more involved in this initiative.
- Were there any issues discussed by the Work Group that produced disagreement amongst Work Group members? The only substantive issue, which created a fair amount of discussion, was whether there should be an entirely separate energy policy or if sustainability and energy should be combined into a single policy. Ultimately it was decided that there would be one policy, which incorporated both.
- Should the Social Concerns Committee act on the resolutions it has drafted related to energy or would such actions be working at cross-purposes with the Work Group? Hesitant to advise the Committee on how to conduct their business, Associate Provost Sullivan simply stated that in his opinion it might be best for the Committee to hold off on taking action on its resolutions until a Regental policy can be put in place. Once this occurs, then the Work Group and the Committee can work together to develop an administrative policy.
- How will the educational aspects of this policy be incorporated into the daily curriculum? The curricular issue is outside the scope of this policy other than recommending that education be done. However, initiatives outside this policy are underway to address the curriculum issue.

Hearing no further questions from the Committee, Professor Kuchenreuther thanked Associate Provost Sullivan for attending today's meeting and providing members with an update on behalf of the Sustainability and Energy Conservation Policy Work Group.

III). Next item of business was the Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Resolutions brought forward by members of the Energy Subcommittee. Professor Kuchenreuther asked members if they would like to vote on these resolutions or postpone taking action until a later date based on information received today from Associate Provost Sullivan. After some discussion, members decided to vote on the resolutions, however, because there was not a quorum, it was decided that this would need to be done electronically. For the record, Professor Kuchenreuther noted that if the resolutions pass and are sent on to the Senate next fall that Energy Subcommittee members Brian Wachutka and Kara Ferguson have agreed to draft the comment for these resolutions in conjunction with the chair of next year's Social Concerns Committee.

Then, members reviewed each of the resolutions were and suggestions were made for changes to each document. A final draft of each resolution will be distributed electronically to the Committee at which time members will be asked to vote on them.

IV). PROXY VOTING: Because not enough members were present for quorum, proxy votes on each of the resolutions below will be conducted electronically. Members present wishing to leave their vote with Senate staff member, Renee Dempsey, were encouraged to do so. :

1. Report on Impacts of Genetically Modified Organisms - Safeway - A yes vote was recommended.
2. Report Using GRI Guidelines - Safeway - A yes vote was recommended.
3. Review/Report on Global Standards - A yes vote was recommended.

V). LEHMAN BROTHERS: Professor Kuchenreuther reported that MPRIG representatives, Katie Tharp and Sara Rostampour, just moments ago submitted a revised version of the Lehman Brothers resolution that MPRIG would like the Committee to endorse. Unfortunately, MPRIG did not submit this revised resolution prior to today's meeting, which would have given

members an opportunity to review it, despite attempts encouraging them to do so by Renee Dempsey, Senate Staff. Professor Kuchenreuther read the revised resolution aloud to members.

Several members of the Committee expressed concern over some of the language in the resolution. Members of the Committee began to wordsmith the document. After much discussion, Professor Kuchenreuther agreed to revise the resolution on the Committee's behalf, taking into account all the suggestions that were discussed. Once complete, a final draft will be sent out to the Committee for an electronic vote. Professor Kuchenreuther noted that members would be voting on whether to endorse the resolution, and that there is no intent to send this resolution to the Senate for action. Professor Kuchenreuther volunteered to communicate this to MPRIG.

VI). MIDDLE EAST FORUM UPDATE: Members of the Middle East Forum Subcommittee have made contact with the Human Rights Center of Minnesota, Center for Victims of Torture, Amnesty International, etc. in an attempt to make this forum a collaborative venture. Additionally, potential speakers have been identified. The main focus of the forum will be human rights in the Middle East¹.

Members were asked their opinions on how the forum should be organized in terms of length, intended audience, etc. Committee members shared their thoughts and ideas. First and foremost members agreed that the forum needs to be perceived as balanced and that, as a result, as many voices as possible need to be represented.

VII). Other Business:

Professor Kuchenreuther thanked members for their participation on the Committee this year. She announced that she would not be serving on the Committee next year as she has already served the maximum term on the Social Concerns Committee, two consecutive 3-year terms. She wished continuing members well in dealing with what are often very complex issues.

A member suggested that the Social Concerns Committee consider having a retreat in either August or September, prior to the start of the regular Committee meeting schedule. A retreat would give members an opportunity

to meet each other and thereby facilitate discussion, dialogue, and involvement at meetings throughout the academic year. Possible agenda items include:

- Ice breaker/team building activities.
- Robert¹'s Rules of Order.
- Establish a common reading list.
- Brainstorm about issues to address during the year.

VIII). Hearing no further business, Professor Kuchenreuther adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate