

# **SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 4, 1998

300 Morrill Hall

1:00 PM

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In these minutes:

Public-Private Partnerships, Culture Fair, Renuclearization of Domestic and Global Energy Production

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Eric Bauer (Chair), Lori Clark, Jean Niemiec, Julie Sweitzer, Robin Brown, George French, Arthur Geffen, Joel Nelson, Mark Ott, Sheila Warness, Catherine Forseide

**Regrets:** Carla Maxwell Monacelli, Frank Wood, Clint Hewitt, Lisa Albrecht, Thomas Haakenson, Claudia Wallace Gardner

**Absent:** Friedrich Srienc, Chris Kelley, Mike Davey, James Kroger, Neta Jo Scarpari

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

The Social Concerns Committee met at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, June 4, 1998 in 300 Morrill Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

### **MEETING MINUTES.**

The meeting minutes from May 6, 1998 were approved as written.

### **PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

Mike Davey, Mark Ott, and Professor Eric Bauer from the Internal Policies & Procedures Focus Group met earlier this week to discuss the role of public-private partnerships at the University of Minnesota and whether or not the Social Concerns Committee should be involved when the University enters into these contracts. The committee would serve strictly in an advisory role with no veto power and would review new contracts as well as the renewal of existing contracts. Committee members raised the following issues regarding the committee's role with public-private partnerships:

- The committee needs a more narrow and clear definition of public-private partnerships since there are so many levels of contracts and contract negotiations.
- The initial point of contact with the committee will be difficult to determine since the process varies from one partnership to the next.

- Partnerships similar to TCF, Aramark, and Coca-Cola would be of particular interest to the committee, where the University earns revenue; subcontracts with vendors for services would not be reviewed by the committee.
- The committee should also define "social issues;" for example, Aramark does not recycle, yet the University strongly promotes recycling to the University community.
- The committee would deal strictly with social problems related to the private company, not any issues related to the contract itself or negotiations.
- The committee should consider establishing evaluation criteria for all of the potential private companies for which the University considers partnering.
- It was agreed that the most important criteria for committee evaluation of a public-private partnership are that it must be University-wide, exclusive, and revenue generating.

Members requested that the Internal Policies & Procedures Focus Group obtain the following information for the first monthly meeting in the fall:

- Trace several cases of public-private partnerships and identify the common gateways.
- Find out how other institutions in the Big 10 proceed with similar contracts.
- Determine if there is a Regents policy dealing with the committee other than Investment Social Concerns.

The committee will continue to pursue this issue, but agreed that it first needs additional information before making a final decision. The role of the Social Concerns Committee in public-private partnerships will be one of the main issues to be addressed during the 1998-99 academic year.

#### **CULTURE FAIR.**

Professor George French reported that he has obtained a copy of the student cultural organization list serve and that he has communicated with representatives from the Morris and Duluth campuses whose interest in participating in the culture fair is strong. Professor French suggested that the committee take formal action to recommend that such an event take place so that he can proceed with certainty. A motion was made and seconded that the Social Concerns Committee feels that it is desirable to hold a culture fair during the spring of 1999. The motion unanimously carried.

#### **RENUCLEARIZATION OF DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL ENERGY PRODUCTION.**

Professor Eric Bauer, Chair, described an issue of concern related to difficulty in handling nuclear waste products and asked the members of the Social Concerns Committee to address this issue next year by informing the public, writing a resolution to the Senate, drafting articles to the Minnesota Daily, etc. Although this issue affects the University through proxy resolutions, such as CBS, Westinghouse, and General Electric this year, it does not affect the University community directly. It was recommended, however, that the committee submit shareholder resolutions throughout the next year when the issue of proxy resolutions arise.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15PM.