

Minutes*

Senate Consultative Committee
Thursday, September 14, 2000
3:00 – 4:00
Radisson Metrodome

Present: Fred Morrison (chair), Sabeen Altaf, Muriel Bebeau, Linda Brady, Susan Brorson, Percy Chaby, Tim Dunn, Meggan Ellingboe, Paul Enever, David Hamilton, Adam Lyche, Joseph Massey, V. Rama Murthy, Paula Rabinowitz, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Jason Reed, Chris Shulstad, Billie Wahlstrom

Regrets: Wilbert Ahern, Les Drewes, Charles Speaks

Absent: Amber Benning, Khaled Dajani

Guests: Vice Provost Robert Jones

Others: Susan Eastman (Institutional Relations), Pauline Oo (BRIEF)

[In these minutes: sesquicentennial; student academic integrity committee; items coming (health care, more on athletics, academic appointments, the budget and biennial request)]

1. Opening Business

Professor Morrison convened the meeting at 3:05 and welcomed the student members, joining the Faculty Consultative Committee to constitute the Senate Consultative Committee. He noted that this was the first meeting of the year of the Committee and that it deals with issues of interest or concern to both faculty and students.

Professor Morrison thanked Mr. Enever for participating on behalf of students in the review committee for the selection of the new University Grievance Officer. The recommendations from the review committee have been forwarded to the President.

2. Report on the Sesquicentennial

Professor Morrison now welcomed Vice Provost Robert Jones to the meeting to discuss the University's Sesquicentennial events.

Dr. Jones explained that he is co-chair (with Regents' Professor Ellen Berscheid) of the Sesquicentennial Executive Committee and that they had hired Ms. Eastman, who has been of invaluable assistance to the committee. The committee is large, with faculty, student, staff, and coordinate campus representatives, and has been working with Institutional Relations on the sesquicentennial for the last year

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Dr. Jones said he wanted to highlight the initiatives, priorities, and major events associated with the sesquicentennial.

-- The sesquicentennial has no theme per se, as has been the case at some other institutions. The primary emphases, however, include thanking the people of Minnesota for their support and taking the events beyond the borders of the campuses.

-- The initiatives include a number of things: a book, the history of the University from 1950 - 2000; a State Fair chronology that will be traveling around the state; a scholars' walk, from Northrop to the Gateway Center which will have information about University contributions to the state and about important scholars and which will include markers, trees, and places to sit (ground-breaking will be spring, 2001); a broadcast series with short stories about the University; and a series of twelve conferences, the first of which will be the economic summit on September 20. The first "signature" event was in Lanesboro. Money will also be put into student activities. On February 21 there will be a birthday party at the Capitol; on February 22, the presidents of the Big Ten and public and private colleges in the state will attend a gathering. The grand finale will be June 29, 2001, on the Northrop Mall, for everyone. Departments and colleges can still plan events, Dr. Jones said.

The total cost of the events is \$525,000, none from state funds; Vice President Gardebring raised an additional \$175,000. The executive committee wanted high-quality events and has tried to use the money with that in mind. In addition to the money, there has been much donated time.

Asked for examples of events that have been funded, Ms. Eastman said they included a video, a book, an event at the Bell Museum for families and children, and a garden at a county fair. Information is available on the sesquicentennial web site (<http://www1.umn.edu/sesqui/>).

3. Student Academic Integrity Committee

Professor Morrison next drew the attention of Committee members to the draft bylaw creating the new Senate Committee on Student Academic Integrity and explained that it is intended to implement decisions made in principle by the Senate last spring.

With an amendment providing that the new committee would have a role in the selection of the Student Academic Integrity officer, the Committee unanimously approved the proposed bylaw for the Senate.

4. Coming Business

Professor Morrison then noted that some of the major issues coming to the Senate were of a nature that the faculty and students would deal with separately. The faculty will look at health care for employees, a matter that does not affect students directly, so in October there will be separate meetings of the Faculty Senate and the Student Senate. The Faculty Senate will also discuss academic appointments.

There may be additional issues arising from the athletics problems that will come to the University Senate. In the spring, there will be difficult discussions about the financial priorities of the University; students and faculty will need to work together lobbying the legislature for support for the

University. The students, Professor Morrison commented, have a very effective lobbying organization that can be helpful.

Mr. Reed said that the students wished to talk briefly about the health care issue. Mr. Enever, a graduate student representative, said he knew that there is a graduate assistant on the Health Plan Task Force and that this is primarily a faculty concern, but said he was worried that graduate assistants would be lost in the shuffle. If the University leaves the state, graduate assistants could be folded into the new health plan, but they have different priorities from the faculty.

Professor Morrison said he wished to reassure the students on this. Graduate students do not want to be in the faculty health plan, he said, because their needs are different. The administration needs to hear advice on this so that the result is not one big health plan group that satisfies no one. The Health Plan Task Force has discussed the possibility of multiple plans from a single vendor, which may well meet the needs of the various groups. He urged Mr. Enever to talk with the graduate student on the Health Plan Task Force as well as with its chair, Professor McGehee, and express views to the administration and Board of Regents on what should happen.

Professor Morrison adjourned the meeting at 3:45.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota