

Minutes*

Senate Consultative Committee
Thursday, March 14, 2002
3:00 – 4:00
Room 238A Morrill Hall

Present: Joseph Massey (chair), Muriel Bebeau, Judy Berning, Susan Brorson, Nick Cecconi, Khaled Dajani, Arthur Erdman, Trevor Ewanochko, Daniel Feeney, Christina Frazier, Marti Hope Gonzales, Anthony Heryla, Candace Kruttschnitt, Leonard Kuhl, Shawn Lavelle, Kari Lindeman, Judith Martin, Matt McBlair, Ryan Osero, Paula Rabinowitz, Jeff Ratliff-Crain, Charles Speaks

Absent: Wilbert Ahern, Ryan Brux

Guests: Patrick Pederson (Graduate and Professional Student Assembly), Prince Amattoe (Student Committee on Committees), David Lenander

Others: none

[In these minutes: bylaws change, Student Senate Consultative Committee]

Bylaw Changes, Student Senate Consultative Committee

Professor Massey convened the meeting at 2:45 and turned to Ms. Frazier to introduce bylaw amendments that would change the membership of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC).

The first amendment was non-controversial; it provided that the chair, elected from SSC members, could not be the chair or vice chair of the Student Senate.

The second amendment proposed to change the membership from five Twin Cities students, one each from the three coordinate campuses, and the chair and vice chair of the Student Senate, to TWO students from each of the coordinate campuses, two graduate/professional students from the Twin Cities, two undergraduate students from the Twin Cities, and (as at present) the chair and vice chair of the Student Senate.

The student members who supported the amendment said it would improve communication among the students, provide more "equal representation," and lessen the probability that SSCC would be overwhelmed with Twin Cities issues. This more closely follows the model of the U. S. Senate, Mr. Heryla explained.

Faculty members and two of the students expressed unease with the representation accorded the coordinate campus students, given the disproportionate numbers of students on the four campuses, and

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disputed the use of the term "equal representation," saying that it did NOT provide representation based on population.

The third proposal brought to the Committee provided that of the two representatives from each campus, one would be the student association president and the other would be elected by the student assembly. Student members of the Committee debated the merits of this proposal.

A motion was made to put all three items on the Senate docket. The motion failed 7-11, with one abstention.

A motion was made to place the first proposal on the Senate docket; the motion passed 15-4.

A motion was made to place the second proposal on the docket; the initial vote was tied 8-8 with two abstentions; Professor Massey cast the tie-breaking vote in favor of placing it on the docket, explaining that whenever there was doubt, the item should be placed on the docket.

A motion was made to place the third item on the docket; the motion failed.

One Committee member inquired what the Committee had voted to do. It was explained that in the past, the Committee had often taken two votes, one on whether to place an item on the Senate docket and one on whether or not the Committee endorsed the item.

A motion was made to endorse the first proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to endorse the second proposal. Professor Feeney said he was uncomfortable voting to endorse such a drastic change in SSCC representation (and thus representation on this Committee) without understanding the implications; he said he felt this was being rushed through. Professor Martin said that to the extent SSCC was a committee parallel to FCC, this was a dramatic change. Student supporters of the proposal said that student representation was different from faculty representation, that the Twin Cities Minnesota Student Association President had endorsed the change (although other student members said that was a personal view, not a position taken by MSA). The Committee then voted 11-5 against endorsing the proposal.

[NOTE: after the meeting, a motion was made to reconsider putting the second proposal on the Senate docket for action. The motion passed; the item will be on for "information and discussion."]

No motion was made to endorse the third proposal.

Professor Massey adjourned the meeting at 3:20.

-- Gary Engstrand