

SCFP SUBCOMMITTEE ON TWIN CITIES FACILITIES AND SUPPORT  
SERVICES (STCFSS)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
FEBRUARY 15, 2005

[In these minutes: Approval of December 14, 2004 Minutes, Andersen Library Update, Security Issues]

[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: Calvin Alexander, chair, Elizabeth Anderson Carrie Meyer, Steve Fitzgerald, Laurie Scheich, Steve Spehn, Gary A. Davis, Gary Jahn, Patrice Morrow, George Wilcox, Jennifer Hannaford

REGRETS: Richard Straumann, Dan Allen, John Adams, Gordon Girtz, Brian Horgan

ABSENT: Peggy Johnson, Lorelee Wederstrom

I). Professor Alexander called the meeting to order.

II). Members unanimously approved the December 14, 2004 minutes.

III). Professor Alexander provided members with an Andersen Library update. For the benefit of new members, it was noted that Andersen Library is an archive for the long-term storage of print material. Besides the University storing its materials in this facility, other public and private entities are able to store their materials here as well. Both the Library and Facilities Management monitor the temperature and humidity conditions in the caverns. After several years of monitoring this data, it is apparent that the heating and air conditioning system for this facility was under-designed. While the system is capable of maintaining proper temperature and humidity settings, barring any unforeseen complications, when the outdoor temperature ranges between approximately degrees 18F – 70F, it is unable to do so when the weather is colder and drier or warmer and more humid. Professor Alexander distributed charts, which illustrated the fluctuations in the temperature and humidity levels in Andersen Library over a specified period of time.

Professor Alexander stated that in his opinion, this is not a unique problem on campus, but rather there are analogous problems in other University buildings. The fundamental problem results from the fact that the University is forced to use a design methodology that does not adequately finance its construction projects. It is extremely frustrating to see the same problems recurring. By convention, the University appears to have two major building criteria for its construction projects, on time and under-budget. This type of culture is extremely problematic.

Professor Alexander asked members to forward to him their suggestions on how to prevent construction and remodeling mishaps from occurring.

IV). As follow-up to the November and December meetings, Professor Alexander continued the Subcommittee's discussion related to security issues. He noted that while it is clear that a card access system or similar technology is the wave of the future for all University buildings, there remains inherent in the use of this type of technology the possibility for major abuses. Should a policy/guidelines be put in place to guide the release of information collected by these systems rather than having these decisions made on a case-by-case basis?

The two ends of the spectrum around this issue are:

1. Absolute control/tracking.
2. Open buildings/open access.

Presently the University leans towards the open buildings/open access end of the spectrum, and, as a result, problems result e.g. theft, vandalism. Should the University move toward the center of the spectrum by considering set hours for the campus?

Members discussed the implications of the use of this type of technology and what they would want, and not want to see happen with the information collected. Overall it was agreed that:

- The University has a need for more protections for people and resources on campus.
- Currently, the University does not practice economies of scale in terms of installing card readers on doors. By taking this approach it could significantly drive down the unit price of this typically very expensive equipment.
- This is an ethics issue.
- No overriding policy/guidelines exist to govern the use of security information collected at the University. Currently, people of goodwill are in charge of the information. While it is likely the University community can count on these individuals not to abuse this information, it would be naïve to think this would go on forever.

Suggestions were made to invite several different individuals to continue the discussion of this topic at the subcommittee's April meeting. Members agreed that it would probably be most appropriate to invite Chief of Police Hestness, Director of Central Security Bob Janowski and Vice President of University Services Kathy O'Brien. During this meeting members are interested in learning what steps have been taken to put a policy/guidelines in place governing the use of private information that is collected at the University, what data can be collected, what can the information be used for and what types of security systems are available.

V). Other business: A member requested scheduling a tour of the steam tunnels in the upcoming months. Professor Alexander suggested that this be done outside the

subcommittee's regular meeting time since there are only two meetings left for this academic year. He also suggested that the tour be conducted later in the afternoon.

Renee Dempsey  
University Senate