

[In these minutes: 1. Late Enrollment Fee, 2. Updates]

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SCSA)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2000

2:30 - 4:00

300 MORRILL HALL

[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 represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Jesse Berglund (chair), Deborah Bang, Jane Canney, Percy Chaby, Ted Labuza, David Lenander, Shane Naslund, Cory Stingl, Jason Stingl, Diane Wartchow.

REGRETS:. Sabeen Altaf, Jeremy Dressen, Terry Hietpas, John Romano, Donna Whitney.

GUESTS: Tina Falkner, Craig Swan.

1. DISCUSSION OF LATE ENROLLMENT FEE WITH VICE PROVOST CRAIG SWAN

Vice Provost Swan said that there are two different fees charged which need to be clarified. The first fee has been in place for many years and charges students who start their enrollment in classes once the term has already started.

The second fee of \$10 was the new one planned for this year which would have charged students for add/drops after a certain date. This second fee was not proposed to raise revenue but to affect students' behavior when registering, especially for courses with high enrollment and high demand and to produce more accurate class lists for professors. He then noted that add/drops that occurred before the start of classes would not be subject to this proposed policy.

Problems with the implementation of this fee occurred with the PeopleSoft system which could not distinguish a good drop, such as when the University cancels a course and forces students to change their registration, from a bad drop, such as when students over-register to save places for their friends.

It has been decided that this fee will not be implemented in the foreseeable future, which Vice Provost Swan said does change from day to day, but would probably not be by next year. He also stated that wide-based discussion with student organizations, including this committee, would be conducted before any future implementation.

In conclusion Vice Provost Swan noted that in previous years the late fee dollars partly funded operations in the Bursar's Office. This has been changed so that starting next year, fee dollars collected will go into a general University account so that no specific office is seen as benefiting by this policy.

Q: How many add/drops were there for this Fall?

A: Some initial data has been received, but because of the change to semesters and PeopleSoft problems, numbers are still being calculated. Once I have this information, I will forward it to the committee.

Q: At its December meeting the committee discussed a resolution asking that the money collected be used to publish the student evaluations of teaching. Is there any intention to publish this data? If so, when?

A: The evaluations will be placed on the web instead of being published so that students can have access to the information, regardless of where they are. Also, if these evaluations do modify behavior then less revenue would be available to publish the data, thereby forcing other funding sources to divert funds to this project. Data is still being collected for fall so nothing will be available until later this spring.

Q: With regards to PeopleSoft, will "Incompletes" continue on a transcript for one year?

A: The University policy was that "Incompletes" would change to an "F" after one term. This was an issue for PeopleSoft since the software counted the number of days until a grade change and therefore could not be programmed to disregard Intersession and Summer Session. The Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) decided to change the University policy to allow students up to a year before an "Incomplete" changes to an "F". Faculty can have students sign a contract which stipulates a shorter timeframe.

A committee member said that student contracts should be made mandatory since it protects the faculty member as well as the student, in cases where faculty leave.

Q: What else can be done to encourage positive student behavior when registering?

A: Persuasion and increased advising are two key items in changing these patterns. While holds on student's registration have been suggested, this seems to be more of a punishment and will force students to find ways around the system. Another idea is more sections of introductory classes. This effort has been helped by freshmen registering in June instead of August because it gives departments time to find instructors and rooms for additional classes. If committee members have any other suggestions, Vice Provost Swan would appreciate receiving them.

Q: Can PeopleSoft prevent over-registering?

A: PeopleSoft cannot prevent students from registering for two sections of the same class.

Q: At Crookston there has been a problem with getting grades on transcripts and A-pass reports? Will this problem be fixed?

A: Grades were posted on January 7. The transcript and A-pass problem was that PeopleSoft could not combine transfer credits on these reports. The problem has been noted and will be looked into.

With no further questions, Jesse Berglund thanked Vice Provost Craig Swan for attending the meeting.

2. OSD UPDATE

RESTRUCTURING

Jane Canney stated that a committee, including Tonya Brown, Sandra Gardebring, Robert Bruininks, and Richard Pfutzenreuter, appointed by the President and chaired by Carol Carrier had developed a proposal. The proposal was brought to the President, who was in support of the recommendations, but asked for additional consultation.

The proposal was presented to OSD directors and central staff for review before being brought to MSA, GAPSA, SCSA, and additional cultural and government groups on campus. It calls for a change in the position to a Dean of Students and a Vice Provost for Student Affairs which would report to EVPP Bruininks. A few other changes were proposed, such as ROTC being transferred to another area on campus.

Q: Is there anything in writing that the committee can look at?

A: It is in its preliminary stages so nothing has been printed yet.

Q: Can the restructuring committee meet with SCSA next month?

A: I believe that they will want a decision to be made before the SCSA meeting in March.

Q: How is a dean at the University-level different from a vice president?

A: A vice president reports to the President whereas a dean reports to the provost.

Q: What was the response from OSD after hearing the proposal?

A: Concern was expressed that the student voice will be lost from the President's Executive Committee meetings. The current provost does understand student issues and is responsive to their concerns and OSD programs. Everyone knows though that people come and go while positions and structures remain.

STUDENT CONCERNS

Jane Canney said that one student concern has been the increase in University Counseling Services and Boynton Health Services over fall semester. The Mental Health Clinic and Counseling services have had to hire temporary staff and increase hours to try and keep up with the demand. Even with this changes, waiting lists have still developed for many services.

The committee made the following comments:

- Financial aid and PeopleSoft would seem to be a cause of many students problems. Many students were issued overpayments for fall semester which caused increased debt loads.
- This problem affects all classes and groups of students, although those with the least seem to have been hit the worst
- Parents of two graduate students came in to talk to departments, which is something that never happens
- Save our student (SOS) materials are being distributed
- A list of issues and demographics from Boynton and Counseling Services, compared to last year would be helpful for the committee
- Half of the student employees in a department were lost between fall and spring
- Semesters are less student-friendly for marginal students since the classes are longer and seem to be more in-depth
- There are many other demands on student time besides education
- When classes were revised for semesters many were changed to meet more days per week, which forces students to be on campus everyday instead of just two or three times per week

Q: Have Boynton and Counseling checked for the reasons behind the increases?

A: The reasons seem to be across the board with no one real reason. I would need to check to see if there are changes from past years.

Q: How many students who were registered in fall are not for spring?

A: About 10% which is not as high as was expected. Traditionally, spring has fewer students. In addition, the semester change at other schools produced significant drops in students.

Q: Why are there fewer students under semesters?

A: Semesters are an adjustment for everyone. Students seem to be fatigued because of the change in course load and time devoted to studies. Courses also carry more weight under semesters which affects student course loads.

Q: Is it true that there will a budget shortfall because of semesters?

A: The University will be short \$26 million but there is no way to determine if this is because of semesters or other changes and problems.

U-PASS

Percy Chaby reported that MSA has been working with EVPP Bruininks and MPIRG on providing students with a mass transit discount at a reasonable price to the University. There is interest from students as well as business districts around town in making this work. The pass will also be available to faculty and staff, which should help with parking problems on campus.

Jane Canney said that students were surveyed and 60% reported that they would be willing to pay a fee. Meetings will next be held with GAPSAs, COGS, and the Student Reps to Regents to support a resolution.

Percy Chaby then said that a 10th Ave connector pilot project was commissioned by MSA last fall, with the full support and additional funds from the President. 24 people were needed to use the bus per hour and the actual ridership was double or triple that figure. Because of the success, the project has been extended for another 10 weeks this spring.

BOOKSTORE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Jane Canney said that Ben Bowman, MSA President, and OSD has been working with Bob Crabb, Director of the Bookstores, to give students a voice with the money that is made and how it is being spent. A charge letter is being drafted and membership will include the MSA President or their designee, the GAPSAs President or their designee, one at-large student, one or two faculty members, and a few administrators.

Q: Will the committee serve in an advisory capacity or have actual authority over the bookstores?

A: Contrary to popular belief, the bookstores do not make a huge profit. The committee would bring faculty and student issues to the bookstores and look for solutions. Changes will be made, such as on-line book ordering that was used this spring. Students were able to request their books on the web, and then they were available for pick-up at the Armory or for delivery to the residence halls. This system worked much better than ordering through other on-line vendors, who many times could not fill orders or were late in their delivery.

A committee member noted that one good outcome of semesters is that students only need to buy books twice a year and therefore pay less.

3. CAMPUS UPDATES

MSA

Percy Chaby reported that MSA is working on next year's funding proposal and its Fees Committee presentation. All-Campus Election Commission (ACEC) rules for elections also need to be approved, but there were problems when they were presented at the last meeting.

Personally, he is working on lighting and safety issues around campus and into the Dinkytown area. A resolution has been drafted and approved MSA. He said that he would bring it to the committee for discussion and approval.

Q: What does the resolution ask for?

A: It asks Dinkytown to be proactive in its lighting and safety efforts so that situations similar to those at Morris do not occur on this campus. Also included is an increase in emergency call boxes and quick reinstallation when they must be removed for construction.

Jane Canney said that she would arrange a meeting between Percy Chaby and the new director of community relations to discuss this issue further.

CROOKSTON

Shane Naslund reported that students are looking forward to Lobby Day on February 23 from 10:30 - 4:30 at the capital. Elections will also be starting for next years officers.

There were no reports from GAPSA or Morris because representatives were not at the meeting.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Jesse Berglund said that one issue he has been hearing is problems with the semester calendar, such as classes ending right before Christmas. SCEP is currently debating alternatives to the current calendar, but perhaps SCSA could get a report and offer some input at the next meeting.

Tina Falkner, who works for the Office of the Registrar and sits on SCEP, said that SCEP will be voting next Wednesday on future calendars. SCEP is recommending that the 2001-02 be approved but that the 2002-03 be a tentative schedule.

The committee made the following comments:

- The Twin Cities calendar is driven by the State Fair, unless it could be moved
- Spring semester could start the week before MLK Day but this causes problems for advisors and grade reporting
- Could fall semester be split over Christmas break?
- Any changes in fall affect spring, intersession, and summer session
- Morris is considering a two day fall break in October

Jesse Berglund asked that any comments be e-mailed to Tina Falkner before the meeting next week.

The committee then discussed student athletic ticket prices and made the following comments:

- When the Ticket Director was asked about changing prices, he said to wait until after the athletic department position changes are finalized
- More students would attend events if the prices were lower, incentives (such as two for one) were offered, and schedules and events were better publicized
- Supply and demand should not drive ticket prices
- If students buy a season pass for one sport, they should get a discount or free pass to other events, especially non-revenue sports
- Women's events, as a whole, are well publicized whereas only football, basketball, and hockey are well publicized for Men's sports

Future committee business should include a follow-up with financial aid in terms of what did and did not work as well as proposal to address these problems, an update from Boynton and Counseling Services, and information on student athletic ticket prices.

With no more business, Jesse Berglund thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Rebecca Hippert
University Senate