

[In these minutes: Updates, Resolution on Classroom Upgrades, Grievance Procedures for Student Groups, and Ad Hoc Project groups]

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SCSA)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2001

2:30 - 4:00

140 NOLTE CENTER

[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: Percy Chaby (chair), Deb Cran, Bryan Donaldson, Tina Falkner, Darwin Hendel, Yasemin Kaygisiz, David Lenander, Cheryl Meyers, Sara Nagel, Ryan Nagle, Hoang Uyen Nguyen, June Nobbe, Patrick Pederson, Gerald Rinehart, Janet Schottel, Jason Stingl.

REGRETS: Edward Ehlinger, Terry Hietpas, Cory Stingl,

GUESTS: Steve Fitzgerald.

1. UPDATES

OFFICE FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Deb Cran informed the committee that Ryan Construction and OSD are working on a design-build concept for Coffman. This reworking and delay in issuing a bid will force the opening to be delayed until 2002. The Coffman Steering committee and a user's committee have been involved throughout the process and will continue to work on programming needs in the interim. In order to make Coffman more financially feasible, the Bookstores are considering consolidating their branches into a larger store in Coffman..

Q: Would a larger Bookstore dislocate any organizations?

A: A larger Bookstore is still just a proposal, and would be located in the old parking garage and dining areas. Some student organization space might need to be rethought, but consultation would occur before any plans are finalized. Other student services might also need to be consolidated in other areas of campus.

Q: Have the student organization moves been paid by Coffman funds?

A: No, these moves were paid by central funding.

Q: Has the administration considered delaying fees for students who will never use Coffman?

A: If the fee is delayed, Coffman funding will decrease by \$1 million.

Q: Have alumni been considered for funding?

A: With the delay, Coffman is now working on building an alumni giving program as well as linking Coffman to academic initiatives.

Q: How many people use Coffman?

A: Coffman receives 8,000 visitors per day, although this will probably increase once renovations are completed.

The strategic planning process is progressing slowly, so as to be thoughtful about it. A core group has been appointed and concerns are being raised. An outside consultant was also brought in to evaluate issues and offer suggestions. One point that was made was that the office is not connected with the undergraduate initiative.

Once the initial concerns are addressed, a broad-based committee will be formed, at which point focus groups will be utilized, as well as established committees, such as SCSA.

Q: What is the timeline for changes?

A: The plan is to have much of the work done by June with implementation by Fall. The real challenge, though, will be find out what serves students the best.

STUDENT AFFAIRS MATTERS

Percy Chaby noted that he has been working on the lighting issue. A safety walk is planned tonight, at which point students, three Regents, NTS, and Facilities Management will walk several student routes across campus, noting the lighting condition. There will then be a wrap-up session at Centennial Hall following.

He has also been working the Student Legislative Coalition (SLC) on writing the Governor and other state representatives. A rally is also planned at Northrop on February 15 and a Student Lobby Day at the capitol on February 20. E-mails are being sent to all students to ask them to attend as well as determining which districts students are from so that their parents can lobby also.

The last item is information on student ticket prices. Partial information has been received, but he is still working on the rest. He will hope to present the information at the next meeting.

2. RESOLUTION ON CLASSROOM UPGRADES

Percy Chaby said that the Classroom Advisory Subcommittee approved this resolution as a more aggressive approach to renovating classrooms. It is now being presented to numerous other groups for their support. Steve Fitzgerald, Classroom Manager, was present to answer any questions.

Q: Does the Medical School technology fee cover technology upgrades in the classroom?

A: The Medical School has a comprehensive plan through Fiscal Year 2007 to update 300 general purpose classrooms.

Steve Fitzgerald said that Classroom Management was formed as the central unit for handling classrooms. In the past technology has suffered, but now students expect it to be present and his office is being overwhelmed by faculty requests. His office has established a minimum level to be present in all central rooms. 38 rooms were updated last year and another 44 are planned this year. Improvements include internet connections, phone, data projector, VCR, a sound system, and a standardized laptop connection. The Dean's Council has stressed that upgrades should happen faster, but funding is hard to find. Student input is needed to have this resolution carry weight.

Q: Will support be covered by this proposal?

A: Any upgrades include phones for problems, staff to answer questions, and lifecycle replacement of equipment. A web site, www.classroom.umn.edu, also provides information on every room.

A committee member said that there have been problems with support staff which need to be addressed to have faculty continue to use these services.

Q: What does the increased funding cover?

A: It speeds up the upgrade process from five to three years.

Q: What is the current funding?

A: \$7 million has been allocated for Phase 1, which runs through 2004. Also included is \$1.6 million in recurring costs. Phase 2, which is student connectivity in 60% of the rooms, is scheduled for 2004-07.

Another committee member stated that college technology fees should be examined to see where they are being spent.

With no further comments, the resolution was approved.

3. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT GROUPS

June Nobbe distributed the old and revised student grievance processes. She noted that she sees a limited number of grievances since most are resolved through an informal process, but there was a major problem with one grievance last year which prompted the policy revision. The problem was to resolve was June Nobbe's role in the process. She worked with Student Judicial Affairs, the General Counsel, and students to streamline the process and remove any conflicts.

Q: Does this policy only apply to registered student groups?

A: No.

Q: How is University Campus Life Student Programs defined?

A: This term is defined earlier in the student manual and has three categories: student organizations, student businesses, and competitive sports groups.

With no further comments, the procedure was approved.

4. AD HOC PROJECT GROUPS

Ad hoc groups were formed for alumni development, event promotion, and technology. Members would be e-mailed to sign-up for one group, with reports at the next meeting.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Tina Falkner distributed a draft policy on student e-mail. The intent of the policy is to make students aware that their central e-mail account needs to be checked regularly and that they are responsible for any information sent to that account, including attachments that are not always forwarded to other accounts.

Q: Would this apply system-wide?

A: Yes.

Q: What spurred this policy?

A: Students not receiving registration information and faculty complaints.

Q: Can another account be used?

A: PeopleSoft can only handle one account, although many students forward their messages.

With no further business, Percy Chaby thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Rebecca Hippert
University Senate