

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2002

[In these minutes: Welcome and Introductions, Meeting Schedule Change, Possible Issues the Committee will Address in 2002 – 2003, Student Services Fee Subcommittee Appointments and Vacancies, Proposed Gopher/Viking Football Stadium Discussion & Resolution]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate or Twin Cities 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: Cheryl Meyers, chair, David Lenander, Kathy Brown, Yasemin Kaygisiz, Amy Lee, Gerald Rinehart, Janet Schottel, Kari Lindeman, Jasen Peterson

REGRETS: Amy Lee

ABSENT: Kathy Brown, Nick Cecconi

OTHER(S): Gabriele Schmiegel, Tina Falkner

I). Professor Meyers called the meeting to order and asked all present to introduce themselves.

II). Professor Meyers directed members to the information packet they received which contained the committee's meeting schedule, charge and a copy of the FCC's 'Questions and Issues Concerning a Possible Joint-Use University-Viking Football Stadium on Campus'.

A member asked if the meeting schedule could be changed. Currently, the committee is scheduled to meet the first Wednesday of each month from 2:30 – 4:00. Instead, the committee agreed to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month except in December when the committee will retain its 1st Wednesday of the month meeting time. The revised meeting schedule is:

November 20, 2002	2:30 – 4:00
December 4, 2002	2:30 – 4:00
February 19, 2003	2:30 – 4:00
March 19, 2003	2:30 – 4:00
April 16, 2003	2:30 – 4:00

III). Should there be follow-up this year on 2001 – 2002 items? The following excerpts highlight the committee's discussions surrounding each of these items:

- A subcommittee of the Council of Undergraduate Deans, co-chaired by Jerry Rinehart and Linda Ellinger, was established to look into the coordination of student surveys being conducted at the University. An outcome of the subcommittee's work was the 'Exit Survey' of graduating students in May 2002. Mr. Rinehart shared with SCSA members the remarkable 53% response rate to this survey. One goal of the survey was to uncover as much information as possible about the student experience. Students were asked a wide range of questions related to their overall satisfaction with the University, its instructors and advising staff, campus involvement activities, etc. Ron Huesman from Institutional Research and Reporting compiled the data and survey results were distributed to the various colleges for their review. Mr. Rinehart is hopeful that this wealth of data will be used to identify what is and is not working at the University.
- Last year the committee endorsed **not** permitting the use of credit cards to pay for tuition. After spending a considerable amount of time on this issue, members believed there was a need to educate students on the potential pitfalls of credit card use and abuse. Tina Falkner, associate director, Office of the Registrar, informed members that Boynton Health Service in conjunction with the Office of Student Finance is working to produce an informational piece directed at overall financial management, not solely credit card use.
- Concerns surrounding adequate advising and other service issues related to the implementation of the 13-credit minimum policy that went into effect this fall for all freshmen and new transfer students. Craig Swan, vice provost for undergraduate education, and Linda Ellinger, assistant vice provost for undergraduate education, will be invited to a spring semester meeting to provide members with an update on this policy.
- A Coffman Memorial Union update continues to be of interest to members. Some of the questions raised last year regarding CMU included: Will the services offered by CMU to students be adequate and appropriate? Is the CMU budget sufficient to run the program offerings? What kind of, if any, marketing efforts will CMU conduct? Why isn't CMU student run? A suggestion was made to invite Maggie Towle, director of the Twin Cities Student Unions, and Chuck Hernick, student board president, to a fall 2002 SCSA meeting.
- MSA continues to work on the Landlord Library Project. Unfortunately, SCSA did not have the time or the resources to tackle a project of such magnitude. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, was charged with contacting MSA for an update on the project. The committee also thinks it is important to receive regular MSA & GAPSA updates at each of its meetings.
- Incorporated within the SCSA mission is the need to be concerned with the general welfare of international students, services and affairs. Gabriele Schmiegel from the Office of International Student Scholar Services agreed to provide members with an update on issues faced by international students at a future meeting.
- Also, included within the committee's charge is the obligation that members concern themselves with all issues dealing with the social welfare of students, including services such as the operation of student/staff health service facilities.

- Dr. Ehlinger, director, Boynton Health Service, will be asked to update members on this matter and to comment on any developments since last year concerning the possibility of assessing student fees yearly as opposed to each semester.
- Follow-up on any plans/ procedures that have been put in place to deal with incidents of violence such as the spring 2002 ‘hockey celebration’ in Dinkytown. How will the administration deal with this type of behavior in the future?
 - Examine the junior year experience. What can the University do to support and retain its junior student population and make their experiences more manageable and positive? Some factors impacting the junior year phenomenon include:
 - Declaring a major
 - Completion of prerequisites and requirement to take 3xxx – 4xxx level courses
 - Transitioning into young adulthood and taking on more responsibility
 - The need to earn more money and work more hours
 - Partying more, for some, once 21 years old
 - Looking into the future concerning job prospects upon graduation

What is Career Services doing to work with juniors to prepare them for graduation? What is the administration doing to make the University a more corporate-friendly place from which to recruit talented students? A suggestion was made to invite Becky Hall, IT Career Services, and Craig Swan, vice provost for undergraduate education, each of whom has a vested interest in these issues. Members rallied around the idea of taking an active role in 2002 – 2003 to focus their efforts on improving the junior year experience.

IV). Embodied within the SCSA charge is the need to provide for a Student Services Fee Subcommittee. The subcommittee’s function is to receive and review annual reports from each campus’ Student Services Fee Committee and address any issues and/or policy changes that arose during the fees process. Professors Schottel and Kaygisiz volunteered to serve on this subcommittee as faculty representatives and Jasen (Clarence) Peterson volunteered to serve as the subcommittee’s undergraduate representative. Subcommittee membership is taken from the SCSA membership unless there are no representatives meeting the designated criteria. Currently, there are four subcommittee vacancies. If SCSA is unable to fill these seats, a member of the Senate Consultative Committee or their designee, meeting the designated criteria, will be appointed.

V). Proposed Gopher/Viking Football Stadium Discussion – The University is currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the stadium issue. Central administration is using the principles and concerns outlined in the FCC’s ‘Questions and Issues Concerning a Possible Joint-Use University-Viking Football Stadium on Campus’ to help firm up its position while negotiating with the Vikings. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the University addresses all possible concerns while protecting the principles on which this institution is founded.

A lengthy discussion ensued and the following observations and comments were made about the issue:

- Concern over the proposal requiring the University to build a \$60 million parking ramp. Projections suggest this is a money-losing proposition.
- An off-campus location such as the Metrodome is a transportation issue for many students.
- The Metrodome does not feel like “home” to Gopher fans. This environment does not facilitate school spirit.
- Students pay NFL prices for Metrodome concessions.
- What does an on-campus stadium contribute to the educational experience of students?
- Will students be assessed another fee to help fund this project? Additional consideration needs to be given to non-resident students already paying significantly more to attend the University.
- Safety concerns in light of last year’s ‘hockey celebration’ that turned violent. What additional safety implications will there be with NFL fans on campus?

After much debate SCSA members on October 2, 2002 approved the FCC’s ‘Questions and Issues Concerning a Possible Joint-Use University-Viking Football Stadium on Campus’ itemized list of concerns minus its preamble. The SCSA crafted their own preamble: “As a committee focused on the social welfare of students at the University of Minnesota, it is our opinion that an on-campus stadium would be a value-added feature to the University’s sense of community and culture. Before the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) makes a formal endorsement either supporting or rejecting a joint-use, University-Viking football stadium the following questions must be answered.”

VI). Professor Meyers announced that due to a change in the committee’s meeting schedule, the next SCSA meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20th from 2:30 – 4:00.

With no further business, Professor Meyers adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate