

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2003

[In these minutes: Welcome & Introductions, Review of Committee Charge, Ideas for Future Agenda Items and How to Increase Student Participation on SCSA, SSCC Ex-Officio Vacancy]

[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: Adam VanWagner, chair, David Lenander, Gerald Rinehart, Jean-Marie Del-Santo, Yasemin Kaygisiz, Cheryl Meyers, Janet Schottel, Shawn Lavelle, Ryan Osero

REGRETS: Gabriele Schmiegel

ABSENT:

OTHER(S): Tina Falkner

I). Adam VanWagner called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. Members were asked to introduce themselves.

II). REVIEW OF COMMITTEE CHARGE: Adam VanWager noted that in conjunction with the reorganization of the Senate structure, Professor Judith Martin, SCC chair, requested that all Senate committees review their charge and make suggestions for changes. The Committee's charge was distributed for members to review. Discussion highlights included:

- A member began by asking the question how many of the duties and responsibilities listed on the charge has the Committee really had an opportunity to work on.
- There was a general lack of understanding about the role of the Student Services Fee Subcommittee. Members suggested inviting

June Nobbe from the Office for Student Affairs to explain the role of this Subcommittee. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, volunteered to contact Ms. June Nobbe to attend an upcoming SCSA meeting.

- The charge stipulates that SCSA will "...provide a comprehensive link between the University and all University student organizations in accordance with the defined relationship between the student organization and the University as described in the Policy on Registration and Classification of Student Groups for the Twin Cities campus and as defined by coordinate campuses." Although the Committee may have done this at some point during its existence it has not done so recently. Members debated whether this should be left in the charge. Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs Gerald Rinehart noted that the turnover in the Office for Student Affairs could have played a role in why this duty has been overlooked recently. He volunteered to check with Tony Diggs of the Student Activities Office and Maggie Towle from the Twin Cities Student Unions to gain their insight on this matter.
- Members wondered why international students were singled-out as a group that Student Affairs should oversee. Should the language be expanded to include other groups? Members agreed that making the language more broad would be the better option because any attempt to articulate a list of all student groups would inevitably leave some groups out. A suggestion was made to change the first paragraph to read, "The Student Affairs Committee is concerned with all issues dealing with the social welfare and campus life of students at the University of Minnesota." Some members did not like the term social welfare. The Committee tried to wordsmith the opening paragraph but decided in the interest of time that members do this over email prior to the October meeting.
- A member suggested having the Committee review the SCFA charge as well to see if it inspires the Committee with other ideas.
- What type of balance should there be in terms of the Committee's role with respect to oversight and dealing with new issues.
- Consider expanding the Committee's membership and adding representatives from other student groups as permanent members of SCSA.

Members agreed to reflect on changes to the charge outside of the meeting time and use the Committee's listserv (sen-scsa@umn.edu) to communicate suggestions over email prior to the October meeting where a final recommendation can be put forward. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, was charged with sending members a copy of the SCFA charge as well as a copy of the Senate organizational chart.

III). Next, Adam VanWagner asked members to participate in a discussion concerning ideas for future agenda items and how to increase student representation on the Committee. Discussion highlights and ideas for future agenda items included:

- Adam VanWagner noted that currently there are only 3 student representatives on the Committee. Because this is a student affairs committee it would naturally be beneficial for the Committee to have more student representation. All ideas to increase student participation were welcomed.
- In his new role as Vice Provost for Student Affairs, Jerry Rinehart's goal is to guide the University and its student body to a better understanding of the outcomes students will be expected to achieve outside of the classroom. Vice Provost Rinehart believes the University has not been as purposeful and intentional about communicating this message and defining the resources necessary to accomplish this goal. Vice Provost Rinehart distributed a handout outlining some characteristics of successful graduates. Should a resource be developed similar to the academic transcript to capture non-academic achievements outside the classroom in order for students to communicate who they are, what they have accomplished and their plans for the future? Does the University have policies, procedures and support structures in place to help students accomplish these important outcomes? In order to accomplish this initiative Vice Provost Rinehart will need to engage groups such as SCFA. There is a level of accountability on the part of each college, major and department to articulate what they are doing along these lines. A student member noted that last spring the SSCC held a round table discussion with the president, vice presidents and various student leaders about the student experience at the University of

- Minnesota. A large part of the discussion centered around what students get out of their University education besides a degree.
- Invite Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Craig Swan and/or Peter Zetterberg from the Office of Institutional Research and Reporting to share the Graduate Exit Survey Report that will be delivered to the Regents this fall.
 - Invite June Nobbe to share information concerning a survey that will be conducted related to alcohol policies and perceptions of alcohol use in the context of riots.
 - In conjunction with graduation and retention efforts, it was noted that Ronald Matross conducted a study on why students drop-out of the University. Vice Provost Rinehart will forward a copy of this report to Ms. Dempsey so it can be circulated to members for their review.
 - Invite a representative from the Office of Admissions to answer such questions as whether or not the University receives an influx of students coming from the 2-year colleges. It was noted that the Iowa Regent's universities (Iowa State, University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa) conducted a survey that resulted in 'The Leavers Report', which summarizes why students drop-out. Ms. Falkner will be attending a conference in October where 'The Leavers Report' will be discussed. She will be able to report back to the Committee about this at its November meeting.
 - Consider receiving annual reports from the Twin Cities Student Unions, Boynton Health Center, Parking and Transportation, Housing and Residential Life, etc.
 - Vice Provost Rinehart noted that University Student Legal Service (USLS) would be conducting programming in the residence halls to educate freshmen that plan to move out their sophomore year about how to read leases, etc. He further noted that apparently there is some movement on campus related to Ohio State's Landlord Library publication that ranks landlords, but had no specifics. The Committee may be interested in knowing what USLS is doing along these lines.
 - Student employment issues such as student salaries compared to market salaries.
 - It was noted that the Minnesota Senate is reauthorizing the Higher Education Act and is considering whether or not to raise loan limits.

This may be an item the Committee should stay abreast of. Another issue, of course, is ever-increasing tuition rates.

- Is there student support for a Gopher only football stadium? Who will pay for the stadium? Should student fees be assessed? If the stadium is built in the transit way, what implications will this have on parking? Vice Provost Rinehart stated that the Office of Student Affairs is gathering data from other institutions on the use of student fees to pay debt on facilities. Members decided to wait until a decision has been made to move forward with a stadium before spending a lot of time on this issue.
- Explore the issue of student evaluations of teaching.
- Examine the impact of the 2 a.m. bar close on the campus area and campus life.
- Look into the recent student service fee problems on the Duluth campus.
- Student involvement on selection committees.
- SEVIS Update.
- Receive a report from Vice President and Executive Vice Provost Robert Jones on the after effects of the hockey riots. What administrative policy changes have been put in place since these riots? How can the campus organize itself to avoid future riots? Vice Provost Rinehart will attend a summit in New Hampshire next week that will address what works and does not work in terms of dealing with riots. He will bring back information from the summit and ask SCSA to think through these issues. A student member stated that the riots last spring may have stemmed from students lack of a sense of community. Related to this is the question how is the University using the technology it is bringing on campus to promote a sense of community?
- The Office of Student Affairs is in the process of hiring a Student Community Coordinator. Once this individual is hired and after he/she has had some time on the job, invite him/her to a future SCSA meeting.
- How many meals do students eat based on the meal plan they have registered for? It was noted that the University of Minnesota should model its meal plan after the University of Wisconsin, Madison's pay as you eat type plan.

Ms. Dempsey will draft the minutes and distribute them to members so some thought can be given to how to prioritize the list of issues the Committee is interested in looking at. In the meantime, Ms. Dempsey will also schedule June Nobbe from the Office of Student Affairs to talk about the Student Services Fee Subcommittee.

IV). Adam VanWagner announced that a representative from SCSA fills an ex-officio seat on SSCC each year. He volunteered to fill this vacancy unless members have an objection. Members unanimously supported Mr. VanWagner filling this vacancy.

V). Hearing no further business, Adam VanWagner adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate