

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 3, 2003

[In these minutes: Student Bill of Rights/Proposed Joint Resolution,
Welcome to Kendre Turonie, Housing Update]

[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, Jean-Marie Del-Santo, Yasemin Kaygisiz, Cheryl Meyers, Kim Roufs, Nathan Hilfiker, Shawn Lavelle, Ryan Osero, Matt Painschab, Divya Raman, Nathan Saete

REGRETS: Gerald Rinehart, Iraj Bashiri, Janet Schottel, Erin Albrecht, Emily Brown

OTHERS: Gabriele Schmiegel, Tina Falkner

GUEST: Kendre Turonie, Coordinator for Student and Community Relations

I). Adam VanWagner called the meeting to order.

II). Adam VanWagner turned the meeting over to Shawn Lavelle to follow-up on a discussion started at the last meeting concerning a Student Bill of Rights. Mr. Lavelle began by providing members with historical information regarding the University's establishment of a Student Code of Conduct and demonstration policy. As part of his research on how the Code was established, Mr. Lavelle was interested to know whether there was any correlation to a Student Bill of Rights. According to Mr. Lavelle, he is at issue with how the University defines acceptable behavior, which is through a document, the Code that outlines unacceptable behavior. Mr. Lavelle believes that further expansion of the Code will violate students' rights and freedoms.

Mr. Lavelle's goal is to:

- Establish a periodic review of the Student Code of Conduct.
- Create a statement outlining students' rights and freedoms.

In Mr. Lavelle's opinion, creating a statement that outlines students' rights and freedoms could be used to guide future policies. It would not be feasible to go back and review all existing policies to make them intermesh with a new statement on students' rights and freedoms. Regarding the Student Code of Conduct, however, it would need to be in sync with a students' rights and freedoms statement.

Mr. Lavelle requested the Committee consider passing a motion at its February meeting to support a statement on students' rights and freedoms. Mr. Lavelle asked members for feedback on whether they were interested in pursuing this matter further. After discussion the Committee agreed to entertain a motion by Mr. Lavelle at its next meeting regarding a students' rights and freedoms statement. A member requested that Mr. Lavelle, prior to the February 4, 2004 meeting, provide members with a copy of the document that they will be asked to vote on.

Regarding a periodic review of the Student Code of Conduct, Tina Falkner suggested that the review body be an ad hoc committee comprised of students as well as administrators that enforce the Code. Representatives from SCSA could fill the student seats on this ad hoc committee.

III). Adam VanWagner introduced Kendre Turonie, Coordinator for Student and Community Relations. He asked Ms. Turonie to provide members with information concerning her position. Ms. Turonie highlighted the following:

- The Coordinator for Student and Community Relations is a newly created position, which Ms. Turonie started October 1, 2003.
- One aspect of this position is to act as a liaison with the students living in the proximate areas adjacent to the Minneapolis and St. Paul campuses. This includes approximately 7 - 8 neighborhoods. In her role as liaison Ms. Turonie works with neighborhood organizations, business associations, as well as student groups and organizations. Ms. Turonie will be working on increasing civic engagement in the communities by students.

- Since she started in this position Ms. Turonie has been focusing on meeting University staff and administrators as well as student groups and organizations that she will be working with. In addition, Ms. Turonie has been meeting with various neighborhood organizations and trying to uncover opportunities for collaboration.
- A large part of Ms. Turonie's job is to deal with topical issues that arise e.g. student housing, etc.
- Another aspect of Ms. Turonie's job is to deal with off-campus student behavioral issues.
- In the future, Ms. Turonie plans to create a student fellows program, which is similar to block programs for students living in a particular neighborhood. Ms. Turonie will be looking for students that are interested in being a representative for a particular block or several block area. These students would be responsible for communicating information to students renting in that area. Besides the student fellows program, Ms. Turonie will be working on other programs/initiatives as well. Because her position is newly created she will be responsible for developing the position with time.
- With the onset of the new school year, as always, there are a lot of pressing issues but student housing is a priority this year. Adam VanWagner asked Ms. Turonie for information she could share with the Committee regarding housing because this is a topic the Committee is dealing with this academic year. Ms. Turonie provided members with preliminary information from the housing sweeps that are in the process of being conducted.
- Ms. Turonie is researching other institutions with positions similar to hers and eventually hopes to form an association for individuals with analogous positions.

In closing, Adam VanWagner welcomed Kendre Turonie to the University.

IV). Adam VanWagner announced that a survey was sent to the Housing Directors on each of the University of Minnesota campuses. The survey response deadline is Wednesday, January 21, 2004.

Adam VanWagner noted that a Minneapolis landlord association was recently established and asked Ms. Turonie for any information she could share with the Committee. Ms. Turonie stated that Mr. Patrick Burns, an attorney, is

helping to organize the University Concerned Landlords Association. The Association boasts roughly 50 plus potential members. Their first meeting was last week. The University staff will be meeting with Mr. Burns next week in an attempt to find out the concerns of the Association.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate