

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
MAY 4, 2005

[In these minutes: Student Transportation Issues, Brainstorm Agenda Items for 2005 – 2006]

[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: Kristen Denzer, chair, Amelious Whyte for Gerald Rinehart, Iraj Bashiri, Jenn Funke, Maria McRae, Matt Painschab

REGRETS: Jennifer Wagner, Kim Roufs, Janet Schottel, Alyssa Covelli, Mike Rhodes, Tina Falkner

ABSENT: Christina Trok, Kendre Turonie, Jean-Marie Del-Santo, Yasemin Kaygisiz, Carolyn Nayematsu, Christine Ascheman, Shannon Carry, Divya Raman

OTHER: Gabriele Schmiegel

I). Kristen Denzer called the meeting to order.

II). It was reported that Ryan Mann in conjunction with other students worked on a class project, which looked at student transportation issues. Ryan Mann and another student met with Transit Services Director Bill Stahlmann to discuss extending the time schedule of the Washington Avenue Bridge Circulator (WABC). From this meeting the students learned that Metro Transit operates city buses, which serve the same route as the WABC. It is for this reason and financial reasons that Mr. Stahlmann recommends that the WABC be eliminated.

Conclusions and recommendations put forward by students working on this class project to the administration included:

- Increase awareness of the MTC and its routes.
- Create an on-line class registration link to UPASS when students register for evening classes, which would encourage them to explore the MTC as a safe transportation option.
- Pursue the suggestion put forward by Anthony Dew of MSA to issue all students a UPASS.
- Convene a meeting with student government leaders and administrative leaders to explore other transportation issues which have been raised e.g. a òlate nightÓ bus, adding a Campus Circulator stop at Appleby Hall, etc.

Chief of Staff to the Vice Provost for Student Affairs Amelious Whyte shared the survey results, which his students collected for their transportation issues project. Mr. Whyte noted that 200 students were surveyed. The survey uncovered that:

- A majority of students did not feel safe walking across the Tenth Avenue Bridge in the evening.
- A majority of student would be more inclined to take classes on the West Bank or use other University resources in the evening if the University provided transportation in the evening (5 p.m. – 12 a.m.).

Kristen Denzer reiterated that Anthony Dew of MSA is exploring with the administration the feasibility of issuing a universal UPASS to all students. His rationale for making this recommendation stems from the fact that it is very unlikely the University will put more money into transportation resources for students and a universal UPASS would eliminate the need for them to do so. Currently, all students are assessed a mandatory \$12.50 transportation fee with their tuition. This transportation fee helps to support all Parking and Transportation services, including the campus shuttle system and UPASS. Assuming there are no changes to UPASS for fall 2005, the price of UPASS will be \$60 for the semester. However, if the UPASS were issued to all students, the price would likely decrease substantially. Anthony Dew has expressed an interest in having SCSA work on this project with him and other MSA representatives.

Mr. Whyte stated that a dialogue between students interested in this issue and representatives from the Office of Parking & Transportation is slated to occur. The committee should ask for an update of this issue at one of its fall meetings.

III). Members brainstormed agenda items for the 2005 – 2006 academic year. The following items were mentioned:

- Invite Dr. Ehlinger to provide information on international student health insurance.
- Stadium fees.
- Student safety issues.
- Strategic positioning.
- Academic Bill of Rights.
- Teacher Evaluations.
- Campus climate issues related to hate crimes and violence.
- Music industry update. Why did the University release names when approached by the recording industry when other institutions have fought to not release names and won?
- Promote student government.
- Plagiarism. Invite a representative from the Office for Student Academic Integrity to provide the committee with information on this issue.

IV). Hearing no further business, Kristen Denzer adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate