

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 2, 2005

[In these minutes: Policy on Student Evaluation of Instruction, Policy on the Use of Personal Electronic Devices in the Classroom, Strategic Positioning, Agenda Items for Spring Semester and Meeting Times]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Matt Painschab, chair, Jon Ruzek, Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte, Iraj Bashiri, Jean- Jennifer Engler, Carolyn Nayematsu, Janet Schottel, Maria McRae, Nathan Pelzer, Hilary Ploeckelmann, Jeffrey Wencil

REGRETS: Marie Del-Santo, Kim Roufs, Jesse Berglund, Jenn Funke, Caroline Younts, Tina Falkner, Gabriele Schmiegel

ABSENT: Gordon Duke, Samantha Peloquin

I). Matt Painschab called the meeting to order, and asked that those present introduce themselves.

II). Members unanimously approved the November 4th, 2005 minutes.

III). A copy of SCEP's (Senate Committee on Educational Policy) Policy on Student Evaluation of Instruction was distributed to members. Matt Painschab noted that this policy was brought to the December 1 Faculty Senate for information. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, reported that after much debate at the Senate meeting a straw poll was conducted, which indicated that a majority of faculty preferred Alternative Two over Alternative One, or another alternative that would be even more progressive than Alternative Two. In the end, the Senate requested that the FCC take this matter under advisement, and determine whether to adopt Alternative Two or send it back to SCEP and SCFA (Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs) to put forward yet another option for consideration.

Committee members agreed that the whole point in SCEP revisiting this policy in the first place was to explore the possibility of giving students access to written comments on instructor evaluations. This would not be accomplished under Alternative One, which stipulates that all written comments would be provided only to the instructor, or Alternative Two, which maintains that student evaluations of instructors would only be made available to students with the consent of the instructor, and these evaluations would not include written comments.

In conclusion, members agreed to keep this item on their radar.

IV). Matt Painschab reported on another item that came before the Faculty Senate at its December 1st meeting, a policy restricting the use of personal electronic devices in the classroom. Mr. Painschab noted that while the Faculty Senate passed this policy the Student Senate denounced it. Members' thoughts on this controversial issue were solicited and debated.

In Matt Painschab's opinion, the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) should consider taking a position opposing this policy. He believes that students have a right to decide how they want to learn. Another member stated that faculty also have a right to decide how they want to teach. A suggestion was put forth that SCSA consider drafting guidelines to assist University policymakers as they think through what types of electronic devices should and should not be permitted in the classroom.

Members agreed to continue to follow this issue into the spring semester.

V). Members' thoughts on what, if anything, they would be interested in doing relative to the strategic positioning process were solicited. Matt Painschab suggested the committee review and provide written comment on the task force recommendations impacting student affairs issues. He volunteered to assign two to three SCSA members to review relevant reports, and have members reconvene at a special strategic positioning SCSA meeting on January 18th to share their findings. These findings will in turn be shared with the appropriate task forces.

VI). Members discussed items they would like to look into during spring semester. The following ideas were mentioned:

- Continue to monitor the progress of the Policy on Student Evaluation of Instruction.
- Invite Lynn Holleran to provide information on the Gopher Stadium and to discuss student stadium fees.
- Invite Dr. Ehlinger to report on risky student behaviors and other student health issues.
- Learn about student safety issues as it relates to crime in the University community.
- Receive information concerning the Restorative Justice Program from Kendre Turonie.
- Learn more about what is being discussed in terms of how disciplinary cases should be adjudicated at the University. Invite Sharon Dzik from Student Judicial Affairs to provide information on this topic.
- Invite Sharon Dzik to share information on plagiarism.
- Invite Jerry Rinehart to provide information on the work of the Administrative Task Force on Services, which is discussing student service hours, email, and other issues impacting students.
- Receive information on campus hate crimes.

- Invite Julie Sweitzer from the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action to learn what her office does to educate students about sexual harassment.
- Learn more about the new One Stop building that is being proposed. Contact June Nobbe to determine who would be the best person to invite to share information regarding this building.

In closing, Matt Painschab reminded members that the SCSA spring meeting times would be the first Wednesday of each month from 2:30 – 4:00.

VII). Hearing no further business, Matt Painschab adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate