

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2008

[In these minutes: Administrative Policy on Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations, Spring Agenda Items]

[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: Jeffrey Wencl, chair, Nathan Pelzer, Thomas Bilder, Kendre Turonie, Kim Roufs, Catherine Solheim, Curt Baker, Eric Brown, Megan Hayes

REGRETS: Amelious Whyte, Iraj Bashiri, Jean-Marie Del-Santo, Jennifer Engler, Maureen Kunkler, Hilary Ploeckelmann, Tina Falkner

ABSENT: Andy Howe, Ian McConnell, Caroline Younts, Olga Zakharenko

GUEST: Rebecca Hippert, Senate Office

OTHER(S): Gabriele Schmiegel

I). Jeffrey Wencl called the meeting to order.

II). The committee unanimously approved the December 5, 2007 minutes.

III). Ms. Hippert provided the committee with information concerning a new administrative policy that bridges the gap between the Board of Regents' Student Conduct Code and the procedures each campus has in place for ensuring fair processes exist for resolving complaints against students and student organizations. This administrative policy complements the Student Conduct Code, and is intended to provide a framework for resolving complaints and violations involving the Code.

The University's Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) reviews all newly created policies. PAC recommends that groups impacted by the new policies be consulted with in order to garner feedback; thus, the reason this item is coming before the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA).

Ms. Hippert distributed copies of the Regental Student Conduct Code and the newly created policy, Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations, for members to review and provide feedback on. She solicited members feedback on the policy; specifically asking members if they had any suggestions for additional definitions that should be included as part of this policy and if members had suggestions for the Frequently Asked Questions section of the policy.

A member asked whether this policy instructs each campus to create a process for handling Code complaints and violations. Ms. Hippert stated that most campuses already have these procedures in place; therefore, because the Code itself does not stipulate that each campus develop its own procedures, there needed to be a policy that would legitimize each campus having their own procedures.

Is a student allowed to have representation if he/she is charged with a violation of the Conduct Code asked a member? On the Twin Cities campus students are allowed to have representation noted Ms. Hippert. She stated that on the Twin Cities campus students can represent themselves, bring an advocate (friend, family member, instructor, or a staff person from the Student Conflict Resolution Center) or an attorney to a proceeding. This information is spelled out in the procedures document, which each campus creates.

It seems that this document could be incorporated into other procedural documents because this policy does not have a lot of substance to it commented a member. Ms. Hippert stated that the policy is intended to be generic because procedures vary significantly from one campus to another.

A member asked whether any of the campuses encountered issues that motivated the creation of this policy. No, stated Ms. Hippert, whenever a Regental policy has corresponding procedural documents, generally, there is an administrative policy that bridges these two. Regental policies are intentionally written broadly while administrative policies layout administrative minutia.

A member suggested the policy clarify what is meant by "student-led organizations." This has been an issue on the Morris campus. Are student-led organizations required to have an advisor, and, if so, what role does the advisor play in the organization? Ms. Turonie noted that the definition of student organizations on the Twin Cities campus does not require that registered student-led organizations have an advisor, and actually very few have an advisor.

As an advisor to a student-led organization a member asked what is an advisor's liability in matters that involve the judicial process. Based on Ms. Hippert's experience with the Student Conduct Code, in order to be charged under the Code a person must be a student; hence, an advisor could not be brought up on charges under the Code. Ms. Turonie directed this member to the Student Unions and Activities' website (<http://www.sua.umn.edu/groups/advising.php>), which specifically speaks to this question.

What are the next steps for this policy asked a member? Ms. Hippert reported that this policy was sent to PAC yesterday, and they have 30 days to review it before deciding whether or not to approve the policy. She added that if members have additional feedback with respect to this policy, they should forward their comments to Renee Dempsey, Senate staff.

A member asked whether the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) has reviewed this policy. Yes, stated Ms. Hippert, an OGC staff person served on the committee that created this policy and this same individual serves on PAC.

Hearing no further comments from members concerning this policy, Mr. Wencl thanked Ms. Hippert for bringing it to the committee.

IV). Members spent the remainder of the meeting identifying agenda items for spring semester. Ideas that were mentioned included:

- Learn what procedures the University has in place to deal with emergency situations in light of the Virginia Tech massacre.
- Invite representatives from the Office of International Programs, and/or International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) to learn what is being done to increase the number of international students and scholars post 9/11. Also, learn what the University is doing to keep in touch with the international students after they leave the University.
- Receive information concerning what is being planned for Welcome Week.
- Learn the results of the Food & Beverage RFP that was issued last year.
- Follow-up on the request from last May by Susan Warfield, director, Student Parent Help Center, that the Non-Traditional Student Advisory Committee (NSAC) become a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA). Last spring, SCSA requested a formal proposal be brought back to the committee in the fall so it could make an informed decision as to whether or not it should recommend that the NSAC be a subcommittee of SCSA.
- Invite a representative from the Alumni Association to learn about their retention efforts and how many members they have.
- Invite a representative from Parking and Transportation to share information about parking in light of the stadium and other Twin Cities campus construction projects.
- Explore what can be done to limit commercial advertising on campus. On-campus bulletin boards should be reserved for promoting University activities and events. There are so many events that take place on campus that students never hear about, in part, because campus bulletin boards are flooded with commercial advertisements, e.g. Schick razors. Discuss ideas for encouraging University departments and student groups to use the student life section of myU portal to post their campus events and activities. Look at the University's Distributing Publications policy:
<http://www.policy.umn.edu/groups/ppd/documents/procedure/DistPubsProc.cfm>
Facebook is a tool that a significant number of students are using to learn about activities and events that interest them.

V). Hearing no other business, Jeffrey Wencl adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate

