

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

238 Morrill Hall

3:00 PM

In these minutes:

Web Development Presentation; Draft Motion to the Senate Bylaws, U.S. District Court Case Addressing Mandatory Student Fees

MINUTES

Present: Kathleen Peterson (Chair), Jane Canney, Ted Labuza, Sabeen Altaf, Susan Daniels, Katie Dudley, Brittany Leigh, Laura Taken, Ed Ehlinger, Britta Ylikopsa, Phil Morgan, Ann Cieslak

Regrets: Maren Mahowald, John Romano, Jesse Bergland, Thomas Haakenson, Jeffrey Olson

Absent: Laura Langer, Patrick Kroll, Diane Wartchow

Guests: Ben Littman, Web Development Project

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

The Student Affairs Committee met at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, March 4, 1998 in 238 Morrill Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

The minutes from the January 7, 1998 meeting were approved as written.

WEB DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION.

An MSA resolution about advising at the University was brought to the attention of the Student Affairs Committee at its January, 1998 meeting. The committee felt it would be helpful to first find out more about the advising network and the new web based development project before acting on the advising resolution.

Ben Littman, Web Development Team, provided committee members with a background of the new web project which resulted from the implementation of the new PeopleSoft system, and the vision and concepts of what the University wanted available to students on the Internet. He reported that due to the IBM patent, he is not yet allowed to provide a computer presentation of the new web project, but offered to return to a future meeting to demonstrate

the new system to committee members. The University's contract with IBM is a joint development effort which intended for the University's investment in the development of the project, but since the vision and intellectual property comes from the University, the University now requests reimbursement of its investment.

The objective of the web-based project is to provide advisors and students with the tools for better communication. Ben reported that the first version of this project will be available in the next two years and will include valuable aspects of human resources as well. He noted that the University is working with a group from Vancouver to replace the current system with the new web interface. Since the new interface has not yet been named, it has been referred to as "whistler," a code name for the time being.

Specifically, the new project will:

- Be designed for processes that students and staff can do for themselves, such as registering for classes, changing benefits during open enrollment, and viewing pay stubs, but will not be used for administrative functions such as entering grades.
- Be a task-based program rather than office or department-based program. For example, a link to find out about the status of financial aid will be set off of the registration page, rather than entering the Office of Financial Aid's home page.
- Allow students to prepare a portfolio for their advisors to access, including experience, skills, leadership, and an on-line resume; useful information for letters of recommendation (concern was raised about security issues).
- Include implications of decisions made by students, such as what will happen if you drop a class (ex: financial aid will also decrease).
- State the "what-ifs?" such as how the program differs when taking 12 credits instead of 18 credits per quarter.
- Integrate the extension program with the day school.
- Be implemented specifically for semesters (concern was raised about the fact that rules are not yet set in stone for semesters).
- Allow students to have their own home page with bookmarks to links that are used on a regular basis.
- Need clarification of the different rules between the colleges, which will have to be built into People Soft and therefore the new web program since it contacts information in the People Soft program.

UNIVERSITY ADVISING.

Britta Ylikoppsa reported that a panel discussion on advising will be held on Tuesday, March 10 from 1:30-3 PM in Coffman Memorial Union. The members of the panel, including Kathie Peterson, will discuss areas in need of improvement, student concerns about advising, and possible solutions.

Britta also referred to a list that she prepared of the minimum expectations that students have about advising services at the University; the list also included the minimum expectations that advisors have about their students. The current advising system is made up of professional advisors, graduate student advisors, faculty advisors, and peer advisors. Concern was raised about the fact that some advisors are not properly trained and may give out inaccurate information to students, particularly about the change to semester system. It was noted that although the initial set of training programs (train the trainers) has already occurred, the committee would like to encourage people to participate and invest in advisor training. Concern was raised about what will happen to advising throughout the semester conversion. It was suggested that courses be scheduled in advance so students have access to course scheduling two semesters at a time. Although there are advisors who map out a four-year plan for incoming freshmen, it was noted that advisors should also encourage exploration outside of one's major and not to when one's major is undecided.

Kathie Peterson noted that focus groups of high school students and also of current University students were formed to obtain information about advising and student expectations. The focus groups revealed that most high school students predicted that they would not need or would not see an advisor at the University, since they did not really understand the role of the academic advisor in college.

SENATE BYLAWS.

A draft copy of the amended Senate Bylaws, Article III, Section 14, Student Affairs Committee was distributed to committee members by mail prior to the meeting.

The following section was proposed for deletion:

b. "To provide supervision over the financial affairs and regular publications of all University registered student organizations, and to require all registered student organizations to provide an annual report and, upon request, a report within 30 days of notice."

The following section was proposed for its replacement:

b. "To 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."

Jane Canney, Office of Student Development and Athletics, reported that June Nobbe and a number of graduate students reviewed the committee's relationship with student organizations. Rather than having the University responsible for the finances and affairs of all of the student organizations, it was suggested that the section be revised because not all relationships with student organizations are the same. Concern was raised about the wording of the proposed substitution because it was too vague, although the "comprehensive link" refers to links from the Student Affairs Committee to student organizations and centers, such as OSDA, International Studies, and Housing Services, to name a few. It was recommended that the end of the phrase state "... as described in the Policy on Registration and Classification of Student Groups for the Twin Cities campus and as defined by coordinate campuses."

DISTRICT COURT CASE RE: MANDATED STUDENT FEES.

A copy of the district court case addressing mandated student fees was distributed to committee members prior to the meeting. The University of Minnesota has a 30-day extension to respond to the lawsuit; the Queer Student Culture Center has retained an attorney, and attorneys have contacted the other groups. Concern was raised that all student fee funded organizations may be at risk and that a change in this system could affect the current culture at the University. Although the Madison court case was based on a student-distributed fee, this case is addressing the administrative-distributed fee at the University of Minnesota.

Members of the Student Affairs Committee agreed that it needs to define its role in the court case. Jane Canney noted that an article about this court case was written in the March 6th edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*; she will distribute a copy to all members promptly, along with information about similar court cases and first amendment rights for their review. It was recommended that further discussion of this issue take place before the next meeting and before a resolution is drafted. Since time is of the essence, an e-mail dialogue will be initiated following this meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.