

# STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 3, 1998

238 Morrill Hall

3:00 PM

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In these minutes:

Advising Initiatives, Student Leadership Roles, MSA and OSDA Updates

## MINUTES

**Present:** Kathleen Peterson (Chair), Jane Canney, Patrick Kroll, John Romano, Diane Wartchow, Sabeen Altaf, Brittany Leigh, Britta Ylikopsa, June Nobbe, Phil Morgan, Susan Daniels

**Regrets:** Maren Mahowald, Jesse Berglund, Thomas Haakenson, Ted Labuza

**Absent:** Laura Langer, Katie Dudley, Jeffrey Olson, Laura Taken

**Guests:** Professor Roger Harrold, Director of Research for Student Development & Athletics

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, June 3, 1998 in 238 Morrill Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

## MINUTES.

The May 6, 1998 meeting minutes of the Student Affairs Committee were approved as written.

## UPDATE ON MSA ADVISING INITIATIVE.

It was reported that the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) may not proceed further with the advising initiative since its new chair has not identified the issue as a priority. However, Britta Ylikopsa stated that she will pursue the issue independently if necessary, possibly through other Senate committees. She added that she would like to obtain more information from other students around the University on their views on the advising services available. Professor Patrick Kroll volunteered to assist Ms. Ylikopsa with her work. It was recommended that since individual advising units have recently been conducting student surveys, additional information could be obtained from such sources. It was also recommended that Ms. Ylikopsa contact the Student Improvement Committee which may be interested in working on this issue.

Jane Canney was pleased to announce that the College of Liberal Arts is working on an application for a Bush Grant to develop a program on advising services. The program is especially significant because the grant resulted from the Career Advising Task Force that was constituted by the Student Affairs Committee last year. Kathie Peterson asked Ms. Ylikopsa to continue updating committee members next year on her progress with the advising initiatives.

## **LEADERSHIP ROLES.**

Kathie Peterson informed Professor Roger Harrold, Director of Research for Student Development & Athletics, that the Student Affairs Committee has expressed a high level of interest in leadership development this year through subjects such as the first year experience with Ester Peralez and the leadership course with June Nobbe. Professor Roger Harrold developed the student interest survey, which is used every 5 years to measure trends in student involvement at the University of Minnesota. In addition, he noted that he has an active database on 4,500 students that can be accessed for further information or questions. He said that undergraduate student involvement in student organizations has increased over the last 5 years, from approximately 34-41% to 50%. In fact, a study of freshmen students that measured the degree of preference for the institution revealed that 83% of students like attending the University of Minnesota.

Professor Harrold added that a recent survey revealed that some students are considered disadvantaged due to financial responsibilities or family obligations. However, in that same survey, he also found that not many students objected to becoming involved, but that there are a number of students who are unable to manage participation with so many other responsibilities in their lives. Although there are financial barriers that prevent some students from participating in leadership opportunities, the Senate Committee on Committees continues to have a difficult time finding students willing or able to serve on Senate committees. However, it was noted that some organizations are cliquy and that some students shy away from that type of environment. Committee members speculated on the fact that faculty members are awarded a reduced courseload in exchange for serving on certain committees, but students are expected to handle it all.

There are several ways for students to get out-of-class co-curriculum experiences, such as through volunteering and other research opportunities. Student employment is one of the best ways for students to feel connected to the University and to become involved. In fact, volunteer experiences are sometimes required for class credit, as in the child psychology program. It was agreed that it is important to continue encouraging students to perform community service and to join other activities that would strengthen their skills.

The way to address this issue is to help students understand the value of these positions, determine how employers view this experience, and promote it as much as possible. For example, June Nobbe from the Campus Involvement Center is currently working with the University web team on portfolio development, the Campus Involvement Center puts on a community service fair every winter quarter, and President Yudof's recent email talks about the first year experience where 100 professors work with freshmen to help develop critical thinking, expose them to faculty research, and work in a group format. There seems to be increased momentum and interest in educating students in thinking in broader terms.

It was agreed that the University has everything, but may not be connecting with the students at the right time. One institution has implemented a co-curricular advisor to talk with students about how to get involved and why it's important. Professor Harrold is currently working with Minority Affairs and just completed a campus survey regarding undergraduate views and opinions on diversity. Kathie Peterson invited him to return to a meeting in the fall and update members on his activities.

## **UPDATE FROM MSA.**

Over the summer, the Student Improvement Committee will be distributing surveys regarding campus improvement areas. The committee will also work on training for new members and getting the rest of the surveys over the summer. Britta Ylikopsa agreed to report back on the results in the fall.

## **UPDATE FROM OSDA.**

- Jane Canney, Student Development & Athletics, reported that she is completing a report for McKinley Boston on the University's Response to the National Alcohol Trend; she agreed to forward a report to the Student Affairs Committee shortly.
- Discussions are underway about the Student Judicial Affairs Committee moving to the University Grievance Office.
- The Campus Committee on Food Services is working with MSA and GAPSA to include representatives from P&A, faculty, civil service, and the bargaining unit to hear complaints about food that can be dealt with at the lower levels; they will also be seeking advice related to the distribution of extra revenue.
- Jane distributed a brochure titled, "University of Minnesota in Partnership with Coca-Cola: 1997-98 Beverage Partnership Projects" to committee members for their information.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

- Committee members congratulated Kathie Peterson for receiving the Gordon Star Award.
- The Student Affairs Committee will not meet throughout the summer session, but will resume its monthly meetings in the fall.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30PM.