

# STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 18, 1998

238 Morrill Hall

3:00 PM

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In these minutes:

Welcome and Introductions; MSA and OSDA Updates; Student Lawsuit Update; New Business

## MINUTES

**Present:** Kathleen Peterson (Chair), Jane Canney, Ted Labuza, David Lenander, Jesse Berglund, Laura Taken, McKinley Boston, June Nobbe, Phil Morgan, Hillary Walters, Jennifer Watts, Britta Ylikopsa

**Regrets:** Chris Macosko, Maren Mahowald, John Romano (sabbatical)

**Absent:** Laura Langer, Diane Wartchow, Sabeen Altaf, Thomas Haakenson, Brittany Leigh

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, November 18, 1998 in 238 Morrill Hall on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota. The following materials were distributed at the meeting to committee members for their review:

- 1998-99 Membership List
- Senate Organizational Chart
- Committee Charge
- Meeting Schedule
- Annual Report
- June 1998 Meeting Minutes

**MINUTES.**

The minutes from the June 3, 1998 Student Affairs Committee meeting were approved as written.

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.**

Kathie Peterson introduced herself as chair of the 1998-99 Student Affairs Committee and welcomed all new and existing members. She stressed the importance of attendance at committee meetings and encouraged active participation and student involvement at all of the meetings. The general business that the Student Affairs Committee includes: a) items sent to it by members of the University community; b) items brought to the committee by its members; c) issues brought to the attention of the Chair or the Secretary; and d) updates from various University offices.

One member asked why there are no representatives from the coordinate campuses as members of the committee if it is supposed to be system-wide. It was noted that while there used to be system-wide representation, committee membership is no longer structured that way. One suggestion for including the coordinate campuses in our discussions was to have the chancellors of Student Affairs from each campus act as ex-officio representatives; another suggestion was to contact other campuses to remind them of the work of the committee and to invite them to future meetings (since our meetings are open). The Chair agreed to explore this issue further and will report back at the next committee meeting in January.

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for December 16 be cancelled due to conflicts with finals week and the holiday break. The next meeting of the Student Affairs Committee will be at 3PM on Wednesday, January 20 in 300 Morrill Hall on the East Bank.

## **MINNESOTA STUDENT ASSOCIATION (MSA).**

- The Minnesota Student Association (MSA) has passed a resolution stating their position that they stand firm on accepting no more than a 2%-increase in tuition. In fact, they're currently in the process of thinking of ways to promote their resolution to the Regents and to President Yudof.
- Nikki Kubista, MSA President, and Sam Tuttle met recently with Governor-Elect Jesse Ventura and encouraged him to prioritize and continue funding higher education. Cheryl Jorgenson, President, GAPSA, and Jesse Berglund are currently working together on a letter to Steve Bosaker, head of Governor Ventura's transition team, inviting the new Governor to campus to talk to the students.

## **OFFICE OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND ATHLETICS (OSDA).**

- Jane Canney, Office of Student Development & Athletics, reported that Esther Peralez, who worked hard last year on the First Year Experience Program, has accepted the position of Dean for Student Services at Metropolitan University; she added that Verna Simmons from the College of Education and Human Development has been hired to replace her.
- Over the last two years, the Office of Student Development & Athletics has implemented a number of new initiatives, such as expansion of student orientation programs, convocation, and freshman seminar. Vice Provost Craig Swan and Vice President McKinley Boston have appointed a team to address various aspects of the new initiatives, such as implementing the recommendations, establishing criteria for quality, and developing evaluations for

assessment. Kathie Peterson reported that she has become increasingly aware of the enthusiasm new students have for the University freshmen programs. Ms. Canney noted that providing the new programs has been a collaborative effort between central administration and student offices at the University.

- The leadership minor program has also been expanded and is expected to be in place by fall, 1999. OSDA has received final approval from Educational Policy & Administration to implement the minor with a 3-unit proposal combining theoretical leadership programs with practical experience. The three core courses are: Leadership, You, and the University (1xxx), Leadership, You, and the Community (3xxx), and Leadership, You, and the World (5xxx). These three courses are taken in addition to 6 extra credits in service, learning, and practicum experience.
- June Nobbe, Campus Involvement Center, described the concept of the new Commuter Connection Program that was designed for the fall 1998 freshman class. The Office of Housing & Residential Life launched this program for a group of students not normally represented. Aspects of the program include free parking for convocation and other university events, regular bag lunches meetings, the development of a commuter council, and "Gopherville," a virtual residence hall. It is hoped that the program will include new transfer students in the future.
- A new initiative has also been developed to address parent issues. The parent program is an opportunity for parents of students to be updated on events and activities around campus, including a quarterly newsletter. For example, opportunities were provided to parents this fall to become involved with Homecoming events and moving students into residence halls; in January, the University plans to invite parents to a dance performance at Northrop. It was reported that there has been a tremendously positive response to this new initiative.

## **UPDATE ON THE STUDENT LAWSUIT.**

Kathie Petersen informed committee members that there is no new information about the student's lawsuit against the University alleging that the mandatory student fees violate their rights. Last year the Student Affairs Committee at the University of Minnesota debated the issue quite extensively and met with representatives of the General Counsel's Office, but decided in April not to take a stand. It was reported, however, that the University of Minnesota is preparing to submit a motion for dismissal in the next few weeks; it would not be a jury trial, but instead a court trial with a judge. The Chair assured members of the Student Affairs Committee that she will continue to follow this issue.

## **NEW BUSINESS.**

Committee members made the following points when asked for suggestions and comments about new business items for future agendas:

- Invite a representative from the Web Development Team to attend a future meeting in order to complete the presentation on the advising initiative.
- Improve training for freshman on how to understand the e-mail system.
- Address the problem of overcrowded computer labs in residence halls and across campus.
- Construct better pre-college course pathways and offerings; alert Admissions Office and MNSCU of this potential problem.

- Continue to address the advising concerns, including the rights of both advisors and students, in both career and academic advising at the University.
- Address the safety and quality of the new food service in response to several complaints. It was suggested that someone from Environmental Health & Safety be invited to discuss this issue at the January meeting.
- For discussion and feedback at the January meeting, June Nobbe distributed to committee members the Regents' policy on Student Services Fees Definition to increase awareness of the student services fees; the vehicle for approval will go through the Student Senate.
- Ask student organizations to make brief presentations at each Student Affairs meeting to increase awareness of diversity and community activities.
- Update committee on the development of changes to Coffman Memorial Union.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35PM.