

[In these minutes: 1. OSDA Update (Meningococcal Vaccine and FERPA), 2. Coffman Renovation Update, 3. Fees Lawsuit and Actions being taken by the University, 4. MSA Update]

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SCSA)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1999

2:30 - 4:00

238 MORRILL HALL

[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 represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Jesse Berglund (chair), Jane Canney, Percy Chaby, Jeremy Dressen, David Lenander, Ryan Nagle.

REGRETS: Ted Labuza, John Romano.

ABSENT: Maren Mahowald, Stephanie Root, Diane Wartchow.

GUESTS: Toby Egan, Edward Ehlinger, Michael Holland, June Nobbe, Maggie Towle.

1. OSDA UPDATE

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE

Ed Ehlinger distributed a letter which stated that nationally, there have been several occurrences of the meningococcal disease, as well as one at the University. It has been noted that there is a slight increase in infection for first-year residence hall students. This information has prompted information to be distributed to students, parents, and residence hall advisors, and a vaccine, which lasts three to five years, to be made available to interested students. Following this information, Boynton has started vaccinating approximately 25 students per day. With the low risk of infection, and a \$75 cost which is not paid by most insurance companies, each student must decide what is best for them. Information sheets will continue to be distributed to students during orientation next fall.

Q: Are graduate students at risk?

A: Graduate students are at no more risk than the general population, which is one per 100,000 people.

FERPA

Ed Ehlinger then distributed recommendations from the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs Task Force regarding the changes to the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act. He said that

the Task Force, with support from the full committee, decided that students should be considered independent adult learners, and therefore should not be treated differently. This document recommends that student records continue to be private and that information should not be released without permission, which would include alcohol and drug violations. The current policy, which allows contact if a student's life is at stake, would remain unchanged.

The document also lists various ways that the University can provide on-going support, such as monitoring and reporting, maintaining policies and judicial systems, increasing communication through education and counseling, and working with law enforcement.

This document is now being circulated to groups around campus, as well as parents, to solicit feedback. It will then be brought to the President's Executive Committee on December 16, and to the Regents in February.

Q: How would this policy affect Post-Secondary Option Education (PSOE) students?

A: These students are already covered by their high school policies, and therefore are not considered the same as other University students. The policy can be brought to the General Counsel's Office to get a legal interpretation.

Q: Does this document represent a change in direction from where the task force was originally heading?

A: No. While members had their personal feelings regarding this policy, the task force looked at what would be best for the University as a whole.

Q: What other group will be offering comments on this document?

A: MSA, GAPSA, the Student Affairs Central Management Team, and SHAC.

Jesse Berglund said that the committee would vote on endorsing the document at the December meeting, once all members have had a chance to read it.

2. COFFMAN RENOVATION UPDATE

Michael Holland, CMU Board of Governors President, and Maggie Towle, Director of the Twin Cities Student Unions, distributed several sheets detailing CMU renovation which detailed the building's history, renovation project overview, an expanded list of facilities and services, goals of the renovation, estimated cost, proposed timeline, and where groups will be housed during the renovation. The following details were also addressed:

- Student Organizations will be moved to the Northwest corner of the first floor to increase access
- A Food Service Advisory Subcommittee will be formed, with five of the ten members being students
- The Building Advisory Team is composed of 50% students

- A Bookstore branch, Art Gallery, Student Legal Services, and a satellite student service center will be added
- The South side of the building will be a winter garden
- Escalators have been replaced by stairs to avoid looking like a Mall
- Natural lighting will be increased in all parts of the building
- An entrance is being considered from the street level to ground floor
- An entrance has been planned on the South side since the loading dock has been moved to the East side of the building
- A real theatre will be built on the first floor
- There will be a tunnel to the new parking garage
- Student organizations will be relocated to 720 Washington Ave
- Lounge space around campus will be increased, but will be more dispersed
- The Post Office will be in Phillip-Wangensteen Building
- Coffman will officially be closed starting at 11 p.m. on November, after which time asbestos abatement will start

A committee member reminded everyone that just the building is closing, not the organization itself. This might be the perfect opportunity to reach out to all students, not just those that come to Coffman.

Michael Holland said that has been the plan since this project was approved. Programming has been scheduled that will explore all areas of campus and include as many students as possible. This is also the last year for separate boards for West Bank, CMU, and St. Paul. Next year one board will serve in this capacity. In addition, the St. Paul Union is considering expansion in 2004.

Jesse Berglund then thanked Michael Holland and Maggie Towle for the presentation and said that, even though he would not be here, he knows that students look forward to the reopening.

3. FEES LAWSUIT AND ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY

June Nobbe said that she had visited with this committee a year ago, but now that the Wisconsin case was being heard by the Supreme Court she wanted to solicit additional feedback. The University is at the information gathering stage currently to determine what could be changed if there was a negative ruling on mandatory student service fees.

For the coordinate campuses, she has met with each chancellor to facilitate their own discussions since each campus has a different structure.

For the Twin Cities, she is talking with groups such as MSA and GAPSA, as well as this committee, so that she can ask students questions and collect their responses. In two weeks, all the information will be collected, and a campus committee will be formed to look at the problem and possible solutions since the Supreme Court ruling is due in January.

Toby Egan, working with June Nobbe on this issue, said other institutions are in the same situation as the University. Some are waiting for a decisions while others are already making changes.

The committee then discussed comments and suggestions on the fee process itself, such as fees groups being represented in appointing fees committee members. Creative options were discussed such as direct election of fee members or the selection committee by the entire student body, limit voting for members to those who are not involved which a group that receives fees, and no fee receiving group members on the fees committee. It was also debated whether students should be discriminated against for being a member of a fee receiving group.

A Morris student said that their fee process involves students applying to serve on the committee. Last year's chair and a professor them serve as the selection committee. Once the membership is decided, the committee divides into subcommittee to work on budgets for a set number of groups that have been assigned to them. No student can serve on a subcommittee that deals with the budget of a group for which they are a member. All budgets are then approved by the entire committee, the Student Association, and the Chancellor.

Q: How can more applications be generated?

A: There are several ideas, such as a booth, advertisements, and e-mail messages.

Q: What is the expected outcome from the Supreme Court?

A: It will be a close vote, and at this time there is no clear-cut expectation. A general statement without specifics will probably be issued. It will then be up to each institution to determine its own changes.

4. MSA UPDATE

MSA drafted a resolution on Sweatshops which stated that the University should not join the FLA, but an independent agency instead.

Jesse Berglund then thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Rebecca Hippert
University Senate