

[In these minutes: 1. Resolution on Use of Late Enrollment Fee, 2. Approval of the Family Educational Right to Privacy Act (FERPA), 3. OSD Update, 4. Campus Updates]

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SCSA)

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1999

2:30 - 4:00

300 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), Sabeen Altaf, Jane Canney, Percy Chaby, Jeremy Dressen, Terry Hietpas, David Lenander, Ryan Nagle, Donna Whitney.

REGRETS: John Romano.

ABSENT: Ted Labuza, Maren Mahowald, Stephanie Root, Diane Wartchow.

GUESTS: Edward Ehlinger.

1. RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF LATE ENROLLMENT FEE

The committee started by approving a motion to only discuss the resolution at this meeting, and withhold action until February.

Jesse Berglund then said that the late enrollment fee was proposed as a deterrent to the 90,000 drop/adds that occur each semester. While some drop/adds are for legitimate reasons, many students 'shop' for classes. This fee would then affect them. The fee was supposed to be in effect for Fall Semester, but because of poor publication, implementation was postponed. The committee spoke to Vice Provost Craig Swan and Registrar Sue Van Voorhis early this semester and points were raised for and against the fee.

This resolution does not attempt to endorse the fee, but states that if it is imposed, the money that is collected, which could be a significant amount, should be spent to publicize student evaluations of teaching. Student evaluations were approved by the Senate, but nothing has been published yet. One reason is because of the switch to semesters, which would make all previous evaluations useless. Another is the lack of funds to produce paper copies, similar to the course guide. If these evaluations were publicized, students could make more informed decisions regarding course choices.

Q: The course evaluations for classes just in the Carlson School are in a few thick binders. With the size and complexity of them, how would they be able to be published? Is the web also being considered?

A: Other institutions that have published evaluations condense and summarize the data. The decision was already made to publish the evaluations on the web, since this is much cheaper than paper copies.

Q: Did the late fee reduce the number of drop/adds this fall?

A: The fee was never implemented because of poor publication. The hope is that the fee will be implemented next year, once student input has been received.

Q: Would publication of evaluations proactively decrease drop/adds? Is this one of the reasons that students change courses?

A: That is the hope since students will be better informed when they choose classes for the first time. Many classes do not match the description in the course guide, and these discrepancies would be alleviated by students performing evaluations. Exemptions would still be allowed for students who had legitimate reasons to drop/add classes.

Q: Does this resolution recommend that the fee be instituted?

A: No. It only states where money should be spent if the fee is enforced.

Q: Would evaluation books be available for all campuses?

A: This still needs to be determined. Information will be sent as soon as a decision has been made.

Q: Was the goal of the fee to generate revenue?

A: No. It was simply a deterrent to changing classes which would then reduce staff and tech time.

A member commented that it is wrong to penalize students for classes that do not adhere here to the course description, yet every student has been denied access to a class that is full because another student was 'shopping' for a class.

Another member noted that if the fee is implemented, the appeals procedure could cost more than just letting students make the changes.

Jesse Berglund then said that Vice Provost Craig Swan and Registrar Sue Van Voorhis would be invited to the February meeting to further discuss this topic.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHT TO PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

Ed Ehlinger said that following the recent change in the law to allow release of information to parents, the University decided to re-examine its policy. Input was sought from campus groups as well as parents, and it was decided that the current policy, which states that University students should be considered legal adults, would not be changed but simply reaffirmed. The reaction from campus groups was supportive while parents' reactions were mixed.

The policy will be brought to the full Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) Committee on Friday, the President's Executive Committee on December 16, and the Regents in February.

Jane Canney added that she and Mr. Ehlinger had spoken to the vice chancellor and student reps to Regents from each campus previously. They, along with McKinley Boston, will also be teleconferencing with the campuses before the Executive Committee meeting to get additional feedback and to see if this policy can be implemented system-wide or if the chancellors would prefer it to be on a campus by campus basis.

Q: Is this a change from the current policy?

A: No. It reaffirms the current practice, but additionally it puts pressure on the University to develop better programs that reach out and help students.

Q: Does this affect PSOE students?

A: No since they are covered by their high school regulations.

Q: What happens if a University student is only 17 years old?

A: They are still considered a University student, regardless of age, and therefore covered by this policy.

Q: Does this policy need Senate approval?

A: No. There would also not be enough time since it will be brought to the Regents at the beginning of February.

Q: Are residence halls in favor of this policy?

A: The residence hall association is in favor; the association president is not since last year the residence halls themselves established more stringent policies.

Q: What are other institutions doing?

A: The reaction has been mixed. Most Big 10 schools are not planning any changes in their current policy. Many private universities have decided to report violations to parents. MnSCU

decided to let each campus determine its own policy, which has lead to St. Cloud State deciding to report violations to parents.

With no further questions, a vote was taken and the policy was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

3. OSD UPDATE

OFFICE FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION UPDATE

Jane Canney stated that her office has been redesigned with the departure of the athletics and academic counseling offices. Also, McKinley Boston will resign from the University, effective June 30, 2000.

The change has given the office a chance to re-examine issues regarding student development. The President has also expressed a vision for the future of the office. To look at changes, a Policy Committee has been established, chaired by Vice President Carol Carrier. A search will also be started for a vice president or dean of students, with a candidate identified by summer of 2000.

A committee member asked what value the University places in this position. While athletics was included in this position it was considered a vice presidency, but now that athletics has been removed people feel that a dean would be better in this capacity. What message does this end to students when a vice president is hired for relating to government officials but one is not needed for relating to students? How would rank and area of control be affected if the position was changed to a dean?

Jane Canney said that this is an important issue since it is a concern for some people.

LEADERSHIP MINOR

Jane Canney reported that this minor is a collaborative effort between OSD, HHH Institute of Public Affairs, and the College of Education and Human Development to provide students with a vision of leadership in today's society. While classes have been quietly offered for three years, the minor has now received approval from all three units and is awaiting Regents approval later this week. The minor has also started making waves nationally as the first program of its kind to be offered.

The minor itself combines course work with practicum experience in leadership development and social justice to provide graduates with leadership credentials. The minor consists of a 1XXX class during freshmen year, then a 3XXX and 4XXXX class, and finally a service learning component. For current students, a grandfather clause will allow them to complete the minor without taking the 1XXX class.

She then thanked everyone for their support and input during the process.

BOOKSTORES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The MSA President and Vice President, Ben Bowman and Matt Clark, have been pushing for a more student service focused bookstore since they started their terms. This led to discussions between Ben Bowman, Bob Crabb, and herself, and then implementation of an advisory committee.

The committee will be composed of: two undergraduate students, the MSA president and another elected through all campus elections; 2 graduate students, the GAPSA president and another elected by GAPSA; one faculty member; Bob Crabb; and one administrator. Since all campus elections have been completed for this year, undergraduate students may apply for the position.

Q: In the mid 80's, the Senate created a bookstore committee which lasted a short time and then was eliminated. How long will this committee last?

A: This issue was taken into account during discussions. The future of the committee rests in the hands of the students.

Q: Is an advisory committee being considered for parking and transportation?

A: Yes. One is being established to discuss campus parking and the UPass.

Q: Since Coffman will house a branch of the bookstore, was a Coffman Union representative considered for the committee?

A: No. MSA and GAPSA were chosen as the two groups to represent the student constituency and to keep the committee at a workable number.

Q: Will this committee simply be advisory or will it have power over the bookstores?

A: The committee will be given a charge, which is being designed, to outline its duties and authority.

4. CAMPUS UPDATES

MSA

MSA has been debating the fees committee slate. A motion to rescind approval of the slate was introduced and then defeated. A resolution was then passed to look at the entire fees selection process since the same issues surface every year.

The 10th Avenue circulator is now running. It needed six passengers per ride to pay for the service, but ridership has been double that amount. With funding from the President and OSD, the operating time was extended from two weeks to three weeks.

Lighting on campus has also been discussed since there are some areas that are very dark. MSA will be talking with Facilities Management to see what improvements can be done. Additional

lights in Dinkytown were also brought up, since many students live off campus and pass through that area.

Jane Canney suggested that MSA pass a resolution in support of additional lighting and then present it at a talk with VP for Institutional Relations, Sandra Gardebring, and VP for Facilities Management, Eric Kruse. She also mentioned that there used to be an annual campus walk-through to assess lighting and safety needs, but she was not sure if this was still done.

Jesse Berglund pointed out that some lighting might be out because of the construction on campus.

A committee member from Morris said that lighting and safety has been a concern for that campus because of one rape and one attempted rape this year. Additional lights and call boxes have been installed, but campuses should not wait for a problem to happen to take action.

GAPSA

GAPSA approved the fees slate at their meeting earlier this week. As in past years, the membership was controversial, so hopefully resolution can be found before next year.

GAPSA is also examining the vote against unionization which occurred last spring in terms of wage compensation on campus.

MORRIS

Paul Wellstone paid an informative visit to campus which has continued his tradition of visiting Morris.

Off-campus housing is the main issue for the student association this year. For almost twenty years most landlords have not made improvements to the houses and apartments. Now the city is asking all residences to be brought up to code. The student association is in favor of this effort, but many landlords are against it and are trying to bully students into signing statements against the improvements.

A chancellor search is also progressing. Between six and eight candidates have been named; half of which have already visited campus. The Interim Chancellor, Samuel Schuman, has also applied for the position.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Ed Ehlinger reported that Boynton has released tobacco data which is turning some heads. This is a national issue, but Boynton is the first to publish any statistics on companies targeting the 18 - 24 year old age range. The pamphlet states that:

- 18 - 24 years old smokers has increased 60% since 1992
- There has been a 150% increase in this period for freshmen

- 53% of freshmen have used tobacco products in the last month

A member asked what had happened with the tobacco settlement money.

Ed Ehlinger said that three organizations has received parts of the settlement. The University is hoping that these organizations can be swayed to target the 18 - 24 year old age range with these funds. The University is also working with the Cancer Center on programs and the School of Public Health is applying for funding for programs.

Future agenda topics included:

- Student ticket prices, especially for athletic events, should be looked at since students pay double the price for games
- An update on student academic integrity initiatives

With no further business, Jesse Berglund thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Rebecca Hippert
University Senate