

2009-10 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

OCTOBER 1, 2009

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES: No. 1

The first meeting of the Student Senate for 2009-10 was convened in Studio C, Rarig Center, on Thursday, October 1, 2009, at 11:32 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing the roll as present were 25 student members. Chair Kathy Julik-Heine presided.

1. COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

There was no report.

2. CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

There was no report.

3. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGENTS REPORT

Kathy Julik-Heine presented the following report based on the Student Representatives to the Regents written report:

In September, the Board of Regents discussed President Bruininks annual performance and reviewed the capital request. This request includes \$100 million for Higher Education Asset Preservation and Renewal (HEAPR) funds as well as funding for the following projects: Folwell Hall interior renovation, new Physics Building, new American Indian Learning Resource Building in Duluth, Itasca Research Station renovation, and laboratory renovations. Information on the creation of the LLC for UMore Park was discussed with action in October. The Provost presented a report on graduation and retention rates.

Kathy Julik-Heine said that she will be inviting the Student Regent to attend a future meeting to speak with student senators.

4. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Kathy Julik-Heine, Chair of the Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), welcomed members and thanked them for their attendance today. A Student Senate retreat was held on Saturday, September 26. 20 senators and committee members attended and generated ideas for this year. While today's meeting is more report based, the request at the retreat was to have more action items on future agendas.

She said that she was contacted by the Minnesota Daily at the start of the year. She would like to see regular articles on student governance appear in the Minnesota Daily and other campus publications.

Lastly, she was contacted to appoint a student senator to serve on the Student Stadium Advisory Committee. She asked if any senator was interested in serving. Andrew Smith expressed interest and was forwarded for appointment.

5. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Crookston – Greg Summers said that CSA held their retreat this last weekend at which time goals were outlined. These included student retention and sustainability on campus since the goal is to be carbon-neutral by 2010. New senators were also elected.

Duluth – Jonathan Lundberg said that fall elections will be held in two weeks. The Chancellor has also announced her plan to resign, so the President will be on campus to discuss this topic.

Morris – Manjari Govada stated that MCSA held its retreat this last weekend. Campus reorganization due to budget cuts has been a topic at recent meetings. The campus also plans to be carbon-neutral by 2010 as well.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly – Jeffery Anderson reported GAPSA held its fall open house, a welcome back party, and a meet and greet with MSA members. There are three GAPSA members in Washington D.C. meeting with legislators. The annual President's reception for new graduate and professional students is October 14 and a Halloween party is planned for the end of October.

Minnesota Student Association - Mark Lewandowski noted that MSA has held elections for open positions and committees have been meeting. DEF grants, funding to other student groups for programming, are being awarded. Events are being planned for Homecoming next week.

6. 2010 LEGISLATIVE REQUEST AND BUDGET OUTLOOK Discussion

Kathy Julik-Heine welcomed Channing Riggs and Dan Gilchrist from the department of Federal Relations to the meeting.

Channing Riggs said that her department represents the University in Washington D.C. The state budget is handled by the department of State Relations, but that department is meeting with state legislators at this time.

She said that the main issues at the federal level include research funding, student financial aid, and stimulus funding. There are 10 members to the Minnesota delegation whom need to understand how important these issues are to the University.

At this time last year there would have been no information about stimulus funding. As of the a few weeks ago, the University is receiving almost \$90 million which will go towards buying down tuition for this year and next year, and job retention of 240 positions. Another \$78 million has been awarded for research and there are another 860 applications pending for an additional \$700 million.

Dan Gilchrist stated that the House has passed a bill that would convert the entire federal loan program from a mixed program with banks to a direct loan program. The University has been a direct loan program for some time and is supportive of this change. The University is also supportive of using savings from this conversion towards more student aid. There is a projection of \$70 billion in savings over 10 years of which some will go towards student aid. The House

bill has significant increases for PELL grants, a change to the Perkins program, access and completion grants, and funding for community colleges.

He then turned to the state budget. The last budget session was not good, but it was made better by stimulus funding. The University received an 11 percent cut to its state appropriation, which is a significant cut. Looking towards the next session, it is traditionally a year for capital projects but budgets may be dealt with as well. The next state forecast is due in December and will set the tone for possible additional cuts.

The University's capital request is on the web at: <http://umn.edu/govrel>. The request is for \$242 million which includes \$100 million for HEAPR funding, \$36 million to modernize Folwell Hall, \$10 million for a new American Indian Learning Research Center at Duluth, \$80 million for a new Physics and Nanotechnology building, \$10 million for general lab renovations, and \$5.5 million for improvements at the Itasca Research Center. The Bell Museum was removed this year after not being funded during the last two sessions.

Q: What is the position of other institutions regarding the Safer bill as it relates to the Perkins loan program?

A: There is a lack of specificity in the Perkins proposal. Some institutions use this program and its loan forgiveness which might disappear under the proposal. The University is waiting to see what will happen and is supportive of extending the Perkins program to other institutions.

Q: What is included in the Folwell Hall project?

A: There are building accessibility issues and heating and cooling upgrades. This is also an historic building which requires increased funding.

Q: What is the status of the Safer bill in the Senate?

A: Their bill has not yet been released.

Q: Will student debt forgiveness be included in a second stimulus funding package?

A: It does not appear that there will be a second stimulus package as the economy has stabilized. Loan forgiveness has only been discussed for some areas, but there is not much traction or funding to make it happen.

Q: Have the University's priorities changed?

A: No. They will remain focused on student aid and research, with some recent work on light rail and patent reform.

Q: What is the status of the light rail lawsuit?

A: State law mandates that a suit must be filed within 30 days of a record of decision, so the University filed to protect itself. Progress is being made to protect the University's research and the University intends to keep working on a resolution.

Q: Is the expectation with the federal DOT that this project will be funded?

A: Yes.

**7. 2009-10 COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT SENATE
Action**

Student Senate committee memberships for 2009-10:

STUDENT AFFAIRS - Students: Olga Zakharenko (co-chair), Silvia Canelon, Megan Hines 6 to be named. **Faculty/PA:** Thomas Reynolds (co-chair), Anthony Albecker, Christiane Bartels, Joyce Holl, Andy Howe, Carlos Torelli. **Alumni:** Nathan Pelzer. **Civil Service:** Thomas Bilder. **Ex Officio:** Kendre Turonie, Amelious Whyte.

FOR INFORMATION:

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE - Students: To be named (chair), Paul Anagale, Ganesh Babulal, Brandon Burk, Robb Garni, Cynthia Kasak, Becky Klismet, Jennifer Landwehr, Meredith Lukasek, Meghan Mason, Eden Sonn, Daniel Stein, Andy Wicks, 3 to be named.

STUDENT COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES - Students: To be named (chair), Kia Adams, Jeffrey Anderson, Xander Castro, Kathy Julik-Heine, Athena Mussenden, John Worden, 1 to be named

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE - Students: Kathy Julik-Heine (chair), Jeffrey Anderson, Aaron Carlson, Manjari Govada, Andrew Heairet, Jonathan Lundberg, Andrew Smith, Greg Summers, John Worden, 1 to be named.

**ELAINE CHALLACOMBE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

DISCUSSION:

With no discussion a vote was taken and the motion was approved.

APPROVED

**8. STUDENT SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT
Removal of Twin Cities Undergraduate Senators
Action**

MOTION:

To amend Article V, Section 4 of the Student Senate Bylaws as follows (new language is underlined). As an amendment to the Student Senate Bylaws, the motion requires either a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate (16) at one regular or special meeting, or a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate present and voting at each of two meetings. This is the first meeting at which this motion is being presented.

**ARTICLE V. STUDENT SENATE MEMBERSHIP, ELECTIONS, AND OFFICERS
(Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)**

...

4. Removal for Neglect of Meetings

a. A member of the Student Senate shall be said to have neglected a meeting if the member does not attend a meeting of the Student or University Senate, does not provide an alternate, or does not notify the Clerk of the impending absence.

b. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit membership by neglecting two meetings of the Student or University Senate.

c. The Clerk of the Senate shall notify any member who will forfeit Student Senate membership by neglecting the next meeting of the University or Student Senate.

d. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit Student Senate membership if membership in the campus student association or assembly is forfeited by failure to satisfy attendance criteria specified in the constitution, bylaws, or rules of the campus student association or assembly.

e. A member whose membership has been forfeited may appeal to the Student Consultative Committee for reinstatement.

...

COMMENT:

The Minnesota Student Association (MSA) asked that it be provided the authority to remove Student Senators, who also serve in MSA, who do not satisfy MSA attendance criteria. The Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) discovered that the other student associations and assemblies already have this practice, although the authority is not provided for in the Student Senate Bylaws. This amendment is intended to provide authority to all campus student associations and assemblies to remove senators who are not attending student association and assembly meetings.

**KATHY JULIK-HEINE, CHAIR
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION:

With no discussion a vote was taken and the motion was approved with 23 in favor and none opposed.

APPROVED

9. STUDENT SENATE RETREAT REVIEW

Discussion

Kathy Julik-Heine, Chair of the Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), said that retreat format included background on the Student Senate, University Senate, and committees. Information can be emailed to senators. At the April meeting last year, five Student Senate mentors were elected to provide guidance to new senators. These names can be distributed to any member.

The goal of the retreat was to meet other senators before the first meeting and generate ideas and agenda topics for the year. She asked senators who attended the meeting to add any other comments.

One senator said that it was nice to meet the senators from the other campuses.

Another senator said that the retreat was helpful in combining Student Senate and student association/assembly ideas. The small group discussions were also helpful.

A senator then said that planning topics for the year was useful to take place earlier in the year.

Kathy Julik-Heine said that a few items from the retreat that will not be agenda topics but will be worked on by SSCC included expanding the Student Senate website information to include information from each student association/assembly and an all-student email the week prior to each Student Senate meeting.

10. 2009-10 SENATE AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion

Kathy Julik-Heine, Chair of the Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), said that the ideas generated from the retreat included 1) textbooks – costs, renting, online, past edition use, and issues for students with disabilities; 2) online learning; and 3) student release questions.

A senator said that MPIRG at Duluth worked on the textbook issue and developed a statement for faculty to sign. Academic Affairs will be working with MPIRG this year to continue the issue.

Another senator said that MCSA is working on a book swap as an alternate to buying from the bookstore.

A senator then said that he would like to make sure that the online learning discussion includes notice that independent and distance learning (IDL) courses do not emulate the classroom experience and are not a good substitute.

Another senator said that work is still needed on student release questions since professors do not always know that they need to do anything. Students should feel free to talk with their instructors on this topic.

A senator then said that the student release questions are not always appropriate for graduate student courses since they do not address all the aspects of graduate education.

Kathy Julik-Heine then asked what speakers the senators would like to see at meetings this year. The following names were generated: Student Regent Maureen Ramirez, President Bruininks, Parking and Transportation issues on the UPass and stadium parking, Provost Sullivan, and student health benefits.

11. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

12. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Rebecca Hippert
Abstractor