

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES

APRIL 18, 1996

The second meeting of the Student Senate for 1995-96 was convened in 102 Fraser Hall, Minneapolis Campus, on Thursday, April 18, 1996, at 11:30 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by telephone. Checking or signing the roll as present were 27 voting student members. Mr. Joel Bergstrom, Student Senate Chair, presided.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action

APPROVED

II. MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 16, 1995

Action

APPROVED

III. STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Joel Bergstrom, chair of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), reported on two issues affecting students. First, the SSCC is preparing a letter to the Board of Regents urging that students be involved more actively in dean searches. Second, the 1996-97 chair and vice chair of the Student Senate will be elected at the May 16 Student Senate meeting and students were encouraged to think about candidates for those positions.

IV. ELECTION OF STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Jamie Geyen, Morris campus, was unanimously elected to serve as the vice chair of the Student Senate Consultative Committee for the remainder of the academic year.

V. AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STUDENT GOVERNANCE REPORT

Eric Bretl, chair of the Ad hoc Committee on Student Governance, reported that the committee is working with student representatives from all four campuses to consider ways of improving student governance and the Student Senate's relationship with the University Senate and Faculty Senate. As soon as the report is complete, it will be shared with the student senators.

One senator asked how many minority students serve on the Board of Regents and/or its committees. Mr. Bretl replied that he did not have that information at hand but knew of at least one person. The committee was then encouraged to include the issue of diversity in its study.

VI. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COALITION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (UMCHE) REPORT

Mr. Eric Newell, chair of the U of M Coalition for Higher Education, provided a breakdown of the capital appropriation which included funding for U of M health and safety, facility renewal, the Humanities and Fine Arts building at Morris, the Archives and Architecture Buildings on the Twin Cities campus, the Duluth Library, the Morris science project, the Academic Health Center, and several other projects.

VII. POLICY ON UNIFORM GRADING AND TRANSCRIPT POLICY Discussion

Chair Bergstrom reminded senators that the Uniform Grading and Transcript Policy is on the agenda for discussion and will be presented for action by the University Senate spring quarter.

In response to an inquiry about whether the proposal is intended to apply to all four campuses, Senator Bergstrom said he understands the Educational Policy Committee would like the agreement of all four campuses on a uniform policy and that they are considering sending the proposed policy to each campus Assembly seeking their endorsement.

Several senators discussed the pros and cons of a plus-minus system of grading and a question was raised about options for retaking classes. Students should not be penalized for needing to retake a class because of poor teaching, said one senator, and the proposal as currently written appears to disadvantage students in that situation. In response, another senator noted that if a class is retaken, both grades will appear on the transcript although only one of the grades will be included in the student's GPA.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Senator James reviewed with student senators a policy adopted by the Regents in which the chancellors and senior vice president for academic affairs are required to meet with the student representatives to the Board of Regents and the student body presidents to discuss tuition and fees proposals before the budget is forwarded to the Regents for action. In a recent meeting with Vice President Infante regarding fees, she said, students expressed their concerns about the inadequacy of the consultation that is taking place, particularly concerning college fees, and asked Vice President Infante to communicate to the deans and provosts and other appropriate individuals this concern and also to provide students with a precise budget proposal for how fee dollars will be spent, including a follow up plan for

next year. Senator James reported that students in CLA, CBS, Nursing, Dentistry, and General College have expressed the most concern.

Next, a motion to suspend the rules to consider the following item of new business was approved.

UNIVERSITY RESTRUCTURING, REORGANIZATION AND APPROVAL POLICY PREAMBLE

In the recent announcements concerning the reorganization of the Biological Sciences, the structural changes within the Academic Health Center, the closure of General College and the consolidating of the College of Education and Human Development with the College of Human Ecology, the administration made unilateral decisions without consulting with the deans, college assemblies or student bodies. Nor have they engaged in discussions with the appropriate University governance groups in the previously mentioned matters. It has come to the attention of concerned University students that the administration makes decisions that impact large numbers of students, faculty and staff not necessarily for the common good of the university. Currently, any information on proposals regarding restructuring comes to the Senate for general information only, the Senate does not have a say in what proposals are beneficial to the institution and which are not. Therefore, the members of the Minnesota Student Association propose the following:

MOTION:

Final proposals for restructuring and reorganization of collegiate units be brought to the Senate for approval and/or amendment.

DISCUSSION:

The motion was approved without discussion.

APPROVED

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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Abstractor