

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
DECEMBER 2, 1993

The first meeting of the Student Senate for 1993-94 was convened in 25 Law Center, Minneapolis campus, on Thursday, December 2, 1993, at 11:30 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by telephone. Checking or signing the roll as present were 38 voting student members. Mr. Erick Harper presided.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Action

APPROVED

II. MEETING SCHEDULE
Information

Other 1993-94 meetings of the Student Senate are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, February 17, 1994
Thursday, April 14, 1994
Thursday, May 19, 1994

III. REPORTS
Information

STUDENT SENATE CHAIR -- Mr. Eric Harper, Student Senate Chair, announced the recent hiring of Brian Jensen as the student legislative director and that the Student Lobby Advisory Committee (SLAC) would be meeting later in the afternoon to look over the legislative agenda and discuss budget issues. Mr. Harper said he has been attending the Student Advisory Council Coordinating Board meetings in order to keep informed, and that a member of the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) testified at a recent Financial Aid Task Force meeting on behalf of the University.

STUDENT SENATE VICE CHAIR -- Mr. Rabun Taylor, Student Senate Vice Chair, reported on the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) and the GAPSA. The COGS is still in the discussion stage of U2000 and no resolutions have been forthcoming as yet. It is also working with the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School to improve the student environment in that unit. The GAPSA passed two resolutions relating to U2000. The first expressed support for the general direction of the plan but called for additional consultation with the University community. It also called for the Administration to present the plan more informatively so that it is more user-friendly. A second resolution expressed strong disapproval about the lack of consultation involved in the restructuring of the health sciences. The GAPSA strongly recommended the Administration consult with student government in future reorganization and planning efforts.

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR -- Ms. Anne Sales, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Chair, reported on the activities

of that committee. The SSCC, she said, is discussing how consultation has been occurring in each of the assemblies and to facilitate communication, an electronic bulletin board, similar to Faculty Writes, will soon be accessible to the students through Gopher.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY -- Mr. Craig Bursch, member of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), reported that the SCEP had been meeting weekly throughout the quarter to discuss and respond to strategic planning efforts. It also developed the academic calendar for the Twin Cities Campus for 1996-97. It is anticipated that will be brought before the Assembly at its February or April meeting.

SENATE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE -- Ms. Donna Warren, member of the Senate Social Concerns Committee, reported that the committee has addressed three important issues during fall quarter: 1) the Bovine Growth Hormone, 2) the University's investments in companies with operations in South Africa, and 3) the final report of the Select Committee for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns. Senate Finance and Planning Committee Ms. Susie Torgerson, member of the Senate Finance and Planning Committee (F&P), said the F&P has also met on an almost weekly basis to discuss issues relating to U2000, including joint meetings with SCEP and the Faculty Consultative Committee. In addition, it has discussed issues relating to the University's budget.

SENATE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE -- Mr. Gary Lind, member of the Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC), reported that the committee has not met often and there appears to be some confusion about the committee's jurisdiction. In fact, a subcommittee has been established to address issues relating to the SAC's role with the Minnesota Daily and other student publications.

IV. UMD 2000 Information and Discussion

Mr. Love Goel, UMD Senator, reported that UMD has been working on its own strategic plan during the past three years (UMD Vision 2000). With the creation of U2000 it is believed, he said, that higher education within the state will change, perhaps opening greater opportunities for UMD.

Mr. Jimmy Lovejoy discussed a plan known as "Above and Beyond" which addresses the issues of outreach and how students receive credit for teaching within the community. The plan has four objectives, he said: 1) to enable and encourage children and teenagers in the community to utilize natural resources from the University--that is, the students, 2) to narrow the gap between the University and the community, 3) to help University students apply their knowledge, and 4) to develop growth in the University and in the community. He encouraged students to provide input as the plan unfolds.

V. UNIVERSITY 2000 Discussion and Action

Mr. Love Goel, moved the following resolution for discussion and action by the Student Senate:

RESOLUTION

We, the Students of The University of Minnesota, hereby present our perspective vis-a-vis U 2000.

Whereas we recognize the unprecedented urgency for a strategic plan at the University of Minnesota, and

Whereas we believe that U2000 has evolved through detailed discussions and extensive deliberations and in good faith between the administration and the constituent groups at the University of Minnesota, and that we would like to commend this effort, and

Whereas we broadly agree with the strategic directions of U 2000; we would like to reiterate certain aspects that we believe should be the cornerstones of any evolving strategic plan for the University.

The University of Minnesota should:

- A. Provide a high quality of instruction and services. It should adopt fresh initiatives and innovative approaches to deal with its primary mission to educate and serve its students.
- B. In keeping with cherished land grant mission of the University, and our unique and strategic position in MINNESOTA; develop, define, and promote activities that enable us to participate actively in our community. In essence, the development of outreach cannot be overemphasized.
- C. Encourage recognition, understanding, and respect of cultural and human diversity by students, staff, and faculty; increase diversity on campuses and in the curriculum. Simultaneously, the University should strive to render free speech and expression to all groups and create open and healthy environs for candid intellectual, academic, and other discussion without subscribing to restrictive "politically correct" measures.
- D. Ensure that students, staff, and faculty are treated as an integral part of the governance process; in conceptualizing, defining, and implementing strategic and other programs thereby enhancing the level and quality of interaction, and creating a healthy, inclusive and cordial atmosphere in the University.

The resolution as presented raised a number of questions. Why is there an unprecedented urgency for a strategic plan as described in the second paragraph? Who are the constituent groups referred to in the third paragraph? Why include language relating to free speech and expression in a document discussing strategic planning? Why is the Student Senate being asked to act on a resolution that has not gone through the consultative process, including review by the Student Senate Consultative Committee?

AT THIS TIME, A MOTION TO TABLE AND REFER THE RESOLUTION TO THE STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WAS APPROVED.

TABLED

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A recommendation to address the issue of student attendance at Senate and committee meetings was presented. The recommendation was referred to the Student Senate Consultative Committee.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Martha Kvanbeck
ABSTRACTOR