

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 17, 1994

The third meeting of the Student Senate for 1993-94 was convened in 25 Law Center, Minneapolis campus, on Thursday, February 17, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by telephone. Checking or signing the roll as present were 24 voting student members. Mr. Erick Harper, Student Senate Chair, presided.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Action

APPROVED

II. MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 28, AND DECEMBER 2, 1993
Action

APPROVED

III. REPORTS
Information

STUDENT SENATE CHAIR--Mr. Erick Harper, Student Senate Chair, reported that the Student Lobby Advisory Committee and the Student Legislative Director have been working vigorously on legislative issues. A draft of a Student Senate Legislative Agenda for 1994 has been prepared and distributed and will be discussed later in the meeting.

Two important issues facing student leaders this year are attendance and communication. The Student Senate Consultative Committee will be taking a more active role in addressing these problems.

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR--Mr. Love Goel announced the resignation of Ms. Anne Sales as chair of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and his election as her replacement for the remainder of the academic year. Mr. Derek Jensen will serve as the SSCC Vice Chair. Mr. Goel said students have expressed frustration at the lack of productivity within student government this year. There needs to be stronger and better communication within and among the student constituencies, he said. At the March 31 SSCC meeting, students will discuss holding a joint meeting with the Student Representatives to the Board of Regents and other Senate leaders to discuss this issue further.

The University of Minnesota Coalition for Higher Education (UMCHE) and the Student Services Fees Committee are working together to garner funding support for the UMCHE. Students, he said, need to be educated about how the UMCHE can benefit them in their work to keep tuition increases at a minimum.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE--Mr. Michael Pawlicki reported that the committee has continued to keep abreast of issues concerning U2000 and most particularly with issues relating to the concept of a University College. The committee has been very active this year, meeting almost weekly, and reports regularly to the Senate Consultative Committee.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE--Mr. Chad Reichwald reported that the Social Concerns Committee has been discussing the possibility of banning the sale of cigarettes on the Twin Cities Campus and the possibility of recommending that the University divest its interests in tobacco companies. It has also been

discussing the Bovine Growth Hormone issue and an MPIRG resolution relating to Prairie Island and nuclear waste storage.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--Mr. Gary Lind told senators that at the committee's last meeting it reviewed the Boynton Health Service Fee request. After considering all the options, the committee proposed a 5% increase in the student service fee.

AT THIS TIME A QUORUM WAS CALLED AND IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT SENATE BUSINESS COULD CONTINUE BUT NO ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.

IV. STUDENT LOBBY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Legislative Agenda

Mr. Bryan Jansen, Student Legislative Director, said the students have developed a capital bonding request that is somewhat different from the administration's agenda but one that they believe is progressive. The agenda asks for \$102 million for capital improvements at the University. It differs from the administration's in that the students believe there is a sufficient urgency to health and safety issues to request that a larger percent of that item be appropriated now. A second difference is that the students do not support the administration's request for the Carlson School of Management project. Mr. Jansen emphasized that it is not that the students do not support the project, but they feel it will be funded regardless of the bonding request and that other issues are more pressing. It is important, he said, to let legislators know that students are concerned and that there is a serious deferred maintenance problem at the University. The students do support, he said, the administration's efforts to build a Minnesota Archives Facility on the Twin Cities Campus.

V. REPORT ON THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COALITION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. Cecil Smith addressed the funding needs for the University of Minnesota Coalition for Higher Education (UMCHE). Progress is being made to garner funding support for the UMCHE and, in fact, a subcommittee of the Student Services Fees Committee has recommended its support. Students, however, still need to get behind the coalition to keep the momentum going, he said. Furthermore, the Student Services Fees Committee needs to be encouraged to establish what the University General Counsel has called a viewpoint neutral criteria for student organizations wanting a checkoff system. If established, the coalition will become a test case for the new criteria. Unfortunately, he said, this has made the debate over the coalition even more complex than it already is.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Two items of new business were brought up:

1. Concern about poor attendance at Student Senate meetings. The Student Senate discussed options for improvement and the following suggestions were made: 1) move the meetings to a more convenient time, 2) change the definition of quorum, and 3) greater publication of meetings, perhaps send follow-up meeting notices. It was noted that various methods for improving attendance

have been tried, including moving the meeting dates and times--the results have been the same. Your interests are reflected in how much you participate, said one senator, and students are getting the kind of government they deserve. Other senators echoed the previous statement, expressing that poor attendance shows a lack of concern about University issues.

2. A joint statement issued by the Chancellors of the Higher Education System in Minnesota concerning the State Financial Aid Task Force was distributed. Mr. Cecil Smith said the report outlines the recommendations of the Task Force which include: 1) increasing the State Grant Program by \$35 million and 2) a no-cost increase plan. Both plans change the amount of money students are required to contribute to their education (commonly called the student share). The first plan would reduce the student share from 50 percent to 40 percent and the no-cost plan would reduce the student share from 50 percent to 43 percent. Both programs increase the amount of money that can be awarded through State grants. Clearly, the programs would benefit the low-income student, but all students would benefit in that the student share would be reduced. One issue of debate, however, is the funding source for the \$35 million increase for the State Grant Program. The Task Force has stated that it should come from the General Fund and not out of tuition. However, it is something students need to watch very carefully.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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Abstractor