

2009-10 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MAY 6, 2010

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES: No. 5

The fifth meeting of the Student Senate for 2009-10 was convened in Coffman Theatre on Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 11:33 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing the roll as present were 26 student members. Chair Kathy Julik-Heine presided.

1. COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

For Information:

Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators (CAPA) represents the professional class of 5200 non-unionized employees at the University. This class was started in 1980 and CAPA was formed as an advisory committee to the President. Academic professionals (P&A) have skills between civil service employees and faculty in jobs such as teachers, researchers, advisors, counselors, and extension service workers. Most people stay in this classification or move to a faculty position. P&A employees have some of the same benefits as faculty, but work on annually renewable contracts.

CAPA meets from 9:00-11:00 am the third Friday of each month in 101 Walter Library and meetings are open to the public. CAPA consists of 40 representatives from campus units and colleges and has four committees: Benefits and Compensation, Representation and Governance, Professional Development and Recognition, and Communications.

Discussion:

Will Craig, Vice Chair of the Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators (CAPA), said that each year CAPA presents an Outstanding Unit Award to a unit at the University that demonstrates equal participation of its academic professional (P&A) members. This year the award is being presented to Theatre Arts and Dance at the May 21 CAPA meeting.

CAPA has also been considering the move to a P&A Senate this year. A discussion will take place in May and there will be a vote in June. If approved, the Regents will take final action next year.

2. CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

For Information:

The Civil Service Committee (CSC) represents the approximately 5000 employees in this category which includes accountants, scientists, executive assistants, and administrators. The classification was started in 1945 with the passage of the civil service rules by the Regents. In

1984 PELRA was passed which allowed for the creation of a bargaining unit separate from civil service employees.

CSC is composed of fifteen members and several alternates. The committee elects a chair, vice chair, and treasurer each year, with the vice chair becoming next year's chair. Members are selected by a committee and appointed by the President to three-year terms. CSC meets the fourth Thursday of each month from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Discussion:

No report.

**3. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

Kathy Julik-Heine, Student Senate and Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Chair, said that as she began to reflect on this year she thought of a speech on shared governance made by a long-time faculty member at a recent assembly meeting. The faculty member's comments on dedicating time at the University moved her and she hopes that the senators feel that their time was well-used in the Student Senate this year.

She said that several resolutions were tabled in April and SSCC decided that it was not their place to vote in lieu of the Student Senate when this meeting remained. Also, after speaking with Professor Wambach, Chair of the Educational Policy Committee, SSCC realized that these issues would not be resolved by the end of this year anyway. Therefore they are back on today's agenda for action.

Regent Allen will be at the May SSCC meeting to discuss the presidential search. While students are pushing for two student seats on the Advisory Committee, there will likely only be one student. He has asked SSCC for suggestions. It has already recommended the Student Senate Chair and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) President, but if senators have any other suggestions please let her know so that they can be forwarded.

Kathy Julik-Heine said that she set two goals this year for the Student Senate and believes that both were achieved. The first was to establish lines of communication between the administration and student leaders. It was achieved through administrators being invited to speak at Student Senate and SSCC meetings. Second was the addressing of pertinent issues which has been the case throughout the year.

4. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Crookston – Thomas Haarstick said that this is finals week at Crookston. There was also a city and campus cleanup a few weeks ago and executive transitions are taking place.

Duluth – Jonathan Lundberg said that Duluth has started its late-night library hours, featuring food, for the end of the year. The Duluth city cleanup has been completed. Officers transitions are taking place.

Morris – Mark Privratsky noted that transitions are taking place at Morris as well.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly – Jeffery Anderson noted that the final GAPSA meeting was last night and a dance party is planned for tonight. This is his last meeting and he enjoyed the experience.

Minnesota Student Association - Mark Lewandowski said that MSA elections are scheduled for Tuesday and then transitions will take place. MSA items for the year included a completed Renter's Survey, 49 DEF grant events this year, a Coffman energy audit, a spring student concern forum, the Volunteer Tax Assistance Program filed 220 returns. As he will be graduating, this is his final Student Senate meeting. He thanked everyone for participating.

5. MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2010, AND APRIL 1, 2010

MOTION:

To approve the Student Senate minutes, which are available on the Web at the following URL:

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/ssen/100304stu.html>

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/ssen/100401stu.html>

**STUART GOLDSTEIN, CLERK
UNIVERSITY SENATE**

DISCUSSION:

A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

APPROVED

6. APPOINTMENT OF 2010-11 STUDENT SENATE MENTORS

FOR INFORMATION:

Whereas, many issues in Student Government take more than one year to fully complete; and

Whereas, each year many new Student Senators spend a great deal of time learning the University's intricate governance system; therefore be it

Resolved, the Student Senate Chair appoints at least three Student Senators by May 15 each year to serve as mentors to new Student Senators; be it further

Resolved, the appointed Student Senate Mentors can be either a returning Senator or an exiting Senator that will be a student through the following fall semester.

Approved by the Student Senate Consultative Committee on April 17, 2003

DISCUSSION:

John Worden, Andrew Heairet, Andrew Smith, and Aaron Carlson agreed to serve as 2010-11 Student Senate Mentors.

**7. RESOLUTION ON THE POLICY ON MAKEUP WORK
FOR LEGITIMATE ABSENCES
Mandatory Graduate and Professional School Interviews
Action**

**Resolution on the Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences
Mandatory Graduate and Professional School Interviews**

The current policy regarding Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences defines the permitted reasons for excused absences. The list does not include interviews that are required for admission to graduate and professional schools, even though many undergraduate students' goals are to continue their education. There is no policy guaranteeing that students may attend these events without negative affects to their grade or that they be allowed to make up the work they missed. Therefore, the Student Senate proposes the following amendment to Section 1 of the current policy statement (language to be added is underlined):

"Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, mandatory graduate and professional school interviews, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances also include activities sponsored by the University if identified by the senior academic officer for the campus or his or her designee as the basis for excused absences. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections."

**KRIS SCHWEBLER, MEMBER
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION:

Andrew Heairet said that students who wish to continue their educations at the graduate or professional level are often required to have an interview. These interviews can conflict for classes so a modification of the legitimate absence policy for interviews is being proposed.

A senator stated that the graduate student delegation met to discuss this amendment and has decided to oppose it since interviews can be scheduled around classes and this amendment dilutes the impact of one later on the agenda.

Another senator noted that while this amendment affects a minority of students, it is just as valuable as the next ones on the agenda and therefore urged approval.

With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was not approved with only 12 in favor, 14 opposed, and one abstention.

NOT APPROVED

**8. RESOLUTION ON THE POLICY ON MAKEUP WORK
FOR LEGITIMATE ABSENCES
Sickness of Minor Dependents
Action**

**Resolution on the Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences
Sickness of Minor Dependents**

WHEREAS, Undergraduate, graduate, and professional student parents have minor dependants; and

WHEREAS, the University has a policy describing circumstances that would be considered as legitimate absences^[1]. Under these circumstances, a student will not be penalized for absences and will be offered makeup work; and

WHEREAS, taking care of the medical needs of minor dependents is not listed as a legitimate absence; and

WHEREAS, student parents who need to be absent from classes to take care of the medical needs of their minor dependents are penalized for such absence; and

WHEREAS, in some instances taking your minor dependant to the doctor is unnecessary however, daycare providers will not provide care per Minnesota state statutes; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Senate urges the University to include “sickness of minor dependents” into the Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences, requiring documentation from a doctor, daycare, or school to excuse a student parent with minor dependants from class.

SCOTT WICKLAND, SENATOR

DISCUSSION:

Devin Driscoll said that this amendment began among graduate student parents, which account for 22 percent of graduate students. It has been endorsed by COGS, GAPSA, and MSA since in some classes a student can fail with one absence and not all instructors recognize an absence for a dependent.

A senator noted that Duluth faculty support this amendment.

Q: Why does the amendment just refer to minor dependents instead of all dependents?

A: The data compiled on this amendment just referenced minor dependents, so the amendment was written to just encompass this documented group.

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

APPROVED

**9. RESOLUTION ON THE POLICY ON MAKEUP WORK
FOR LEGITIMATE ABSENCES
Student Senators
Action**

Resolution on the Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences - Student Senators

The text of the motion will be distributed prior to the meeting. Whereas student activity in the governance structures of the University is both essential to the process and valued,

Whereas, student participation in both Student Senate and University Senate can be a barrier to the fulfillment of academic duties,

Whereas, faculty and subsidiary bodies of the University Senate not including Student Senate are relieved of many burdens in opposition to their involvement,

For these reasons stated above, therefore be it decided that the Student Senate endorse the following action;

The administration shall formally recognize the University Senate and its subsidiary bodies including all committees, task forces, working groups, and any subsequent bodies incorporated as University Sponsored and Sanctioned including Student Senate, and

The administration shall formally recognize the Student Senate as a subsidiary body of the University Senate in the following amendments to language in the Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences: Twin Cities, Crookston, Morris, Rochester (language to be added is underlined):

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences: Twin Cities, Crookston, Morris, Rochester

1. Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, University Senate, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances also include activities sponsored by the University if identified by the senior academic officer for the campus or his or her designee

as the basis for excused absences. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections.

2. It is the responsibility of students to plan their schedules to avoid excessive conflict with course requirements.

3. A student must notify instructors of circumstances identified in (1) as soon as possible and provide documentation to the instructor to verify the reason for the absence. In the event that the University declares a pandemic emergency (e.g., flu), the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost or designee may waive the requirement that students are required to have documentation from a physician for illness.

4. If a student is absent due to circumstances identified in (1) and has complied with the notification requirement, the instructor may not penalize the student and must provide reasonable and timely accommodation or opportunity to make up exams or other course requirements that have an impact on the course grade.

5. The authority to determine what constitutes an excusable bereavement absence and religious observance rests with the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

6. Instructors are encouraged to accommodate students who wish to participate in party caucuses, pursuant to Board of Regents resolution [See <http://www1.umn.edu/regents/minutes/2005/december/board.pdf>, p. 147]

7. This policy does not apply to final examinations.

8. Colleges and academic units may establish specific criteria for notice and completion of work to implement this policy.

...

DEFINITIONS

University Senate shall be defined as all actively and directly reporting bodies designated formally or through incorporation by constitution or bylaw. These bodies shall include the Student Senate and it's committees and designated representatives to affiliated University Committees.

**AARON CARLSON, MEMBER
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION:

Aaron Carlson stated that while faculty can arrange their schedules to attend Senate meetings, this approach does not work for students, so this amendment was proposed.

A motion was made and seconded to table this motion. A vote was taken and the motion was not approved with only 10 in favor and 16 opposed.

A senator said that there was a productive conversation of this issue at SSCC. Senators should schedule their classes around Senate meetings instead of allowing for excused absences. It is important how student attendance in classes is viewed.

Another senator stated that this amendment would show faculty the importance of Senate participation and it protects the involvement of students. He stated that undergraduate cannot always move their classes to attend Senate meetings.

A senator said that a negative view of the Senate should not be a concern. This amendment simply allows students to attend Senate functions.

Another senator agreed with the amendment in principle but believes that it is bad politics. Instead of the amendment, the alternate system should be evaluated.

A motion was then made, seconded, and approved to extend the time for debate by 10 minutes.

A senator said that students are fortunate that there is a legitimate system of governance at the University with members from all groups. It is not the place of a professor to say that the student place in the governance system is not important or deny the student voice in the process. He is opposed to students having to arrange their schedules to be able to participate. The spirit of this amendment is that students are an important part of the governance process at the University.

Another senator noted that the Student Senate handbook already states that if a senator cannot attend a meeting, then they should send an alternate.

A senator suggested that each college or campus establish an alternate system like the one in place for graduate students.

A motion was then made, seconded, and approved to extend the time for debate by five minutes.

A senator said that the Senate only meets five times per year so these meetings should be excused. Some programs have very structured classes that cannot be moved to attend these meetings.

Another senator said that the alternate system is not meant to send someone in a senator's place to each meeting.

A senator suggested that this amendment be postponed to allow more time for an alternate system to be developed and to make a better argument for this change.

With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was approved with 17 in favor, 9 opposed, and one abstention.

10. STUDENT SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT
Student Senator Attendance
Action

MOTION:

To amend Article V, Section 4 of the Student Senate Bylaws as follows (new language is underlined; language to be deleted is ~~struck-out~~). As an amendment to the Student Senate Bylaws, the motion requires either a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate () 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 either by neglecting ~~two~~ one meetings of the Student or University Senate or by failing to be present at or to provide an alternate at two Student or University Senate meetings.

c. The Clerk of the Senate shall notify any member who has forfeited or 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.

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COMMENT:

The current provision regarding removal for neglect of attendance to meetings allows for absence under the condition that a student senator provides either a notification to the senate

Clerk or provides an alternate to attend in his or her place. The provisions as currently outlined allow student senators to remain in their positions even in the event that they do not attend a single student senate meeting in the course of a year, as long as they provide notification for impending absences. Senator absences limit the ability of the senate to complete business and fulfill its duties to the University of Minnesota and its student body.

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

DISCUSSION:

Kathy Julik-Heine said that she is proposing this amendment since eight Student Senators never attended or sent an alternate to a meeting this year. This lowers the ability of this body to conduct business.

A senator noted this amendment would have a greater impact on smaller units which have no alternates.

Another senator stated that it can be difficult to attend Student Senate meetings at this time and she suggested that the meeting time be rescheduled.

A senator said that he would support this amendment in light of passage of the previous amendment.

Another senator noted that it can be difficult to find students with adequate knowledge to serve as senators.

A senator said that poor attendance at Student Senate meetings correlates with poor attendance at MSA meetings. This amendment would help quorum in both bodies.

Another senator said that this amendment is a good idea since students who want to be here will attend.

With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was not approved with only 22 in favor, 4 opposed, and one abstention.

NOT APPROVED

**11. STUDENT SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT
Ex Officio Student Senate Members
Action**

MOTION:

To amend Article V, Section 1 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 () 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)**

1. Membership

a. For the purpose of electing representatives and alternate representatives, if any, to the Student Senate, qualified students shall vote within each of the following units of the University:

TWIN CITIES: Biological Sciences; Continuing Education; Dentistry; Design; Education and Human Development; Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences; Graduate School; Law; Liberal Arts; Management; Medical School; Nursing; Pharmacy; Public Health; Technology; Veterinary Medicine

CROOKSTON

DULUTH: Business and Economics; Education and Human Service Professions; Fine Arts; Liberal Arts; Science and Engineering;

MORRIS

ROCHESTER

The elected members of the Student Senate shall be members of the University Senate.

b. Student body presidents of the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Rochester, and Twin Cities student bodies shall, if not otherwise elected, serve as ex officio nonvoting members. Student members of Senate committees shall, if not otherwise elected, serve as ex officio nonvoting members. They shall attend meetings of the Student Senate and report on Senate committee issues when relevant.

...

COMMENT:

The current Student Senate bylaws do not require the attendance of student members of Senate committees to meetings of the Student Senate. The purpose of a committee structure is for the members of committees to conduct specific business and report back on issues to the greater elected body. Policies changes and issues which affect students arise frequently within Senate committees and never reach the Student Senate for discussion, feedback or movement through the system.

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

DISCUSSION:

Q: What would be the status of these students at meeting and how many would be involved?

A: Student committee members would be ex officio non-voting members who would be invited to attend Student Senate meetings. There are over 100 student committee members.

Q: Why are student body presidents included?

A: This is a housekeeping change as they are ex officio members on the University Senate but this language was never included for the Student Senate.

An amendment was made and seconded to strike the first sentence. A vote was taken and the motion was not approved with only 8 in favor, 15 opposed, and two abstentions.

A motion was then made, seconded, and approved to extend the time for debate by 10 minutes.

A senator said that there is no clear connection between the Student Senate and its committees. He does not want to force attendance but he does see the benefit in building connections between these groups.

Another senator said that there is no negative aspect to this amendment and can only foster positive results.

A senator said that this amendment will provide speaking rights to student committee members which might spark an interest in serving as a senator in the future or an alternate now.

A motion was made and seconded to require a ranking student committee member of a Student Senate committee to submit a written report to the vice chair. A vote was taken and the motion was not approved with only 6 in favor, 16 opposed, and two abstentions.

With no further discussion a vote was taken and the motion was approved with 28 in favor and none opposed.

APPROVED

**12. ELECTION OF 2010-11 STUDENT SENATE/
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR
Election by 2010-11 Senators Only**

Aaron Carlson, a student senator from the College of Liberal Arts, was elected Student Senate Chair.

**13. ELECTION OF 2010-11 TWIN CITIES UNDERGRADUATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES MEMBER
Election by 2010-11 Twin Cities Undergraduate Senators Only**

Silvia Canelon, Danny Spors, and Evan Symons were elected 2009-10 Twin Cities undergraduate Committee on Committees members.

**14. ELECTION OF 2010-11 TWIN CITIES MEMBERS OF THE
STUDENT SENATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Election by 2010-11 Twin Cities Senators Only
[One Twin Cities undergraduate senator and
one Twin Cities graduate/professional senator]**

Aara Johnson and Luke Nichols were elected 2010-11 Twin Cities members of the Student Senate Nominating Committee.

15. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

16. NEW BUSINESS

Devin Driscoll stated that the Council of Graduate Students presented their first faculty award this year for work with graduate students. Of the 60 applicants, 12 were selected for the awards. The names are:

- Victor Barocas, Professor, Biomedical Engineering, IT
- Robert (Robin) Brown, Associate Professor, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, CLA
- Alexander Heger, Associate Professor, Physics and Astronomy, IT
- Christopher Nappa, Associate Professor, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, CLA
- Michael Osterholm, Professor, Environmental Health Sciences, Medicine
- Claudia Parliament, Professor, Applied Economics, CFANS
- John Pastor, Professor, Biology, UMD
- David Pellow, Professor, Sociology, CLA
- Rory Rimmel, Professor, Medicinal Chemistry, Pharmacy
- Gillian Roehrig, Associate Professor, Curriculum and Instruction, CEHD
- Joe Soss, Professor, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, CLA
- Margaret Werry, Associate Professor, Theater Arts and Dance, CLA

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

**Rebecca Hippert
Abstractor**

[1] Administrative Policy-Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences
<http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html>