

[In these minutes: Updates, Twin Cities Smoking Ban, Bylaw amendment on attendance, Textbook resolution, Spring semester items]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

DECEMBER 11, 2008

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Ryan Kennedy (chair), Jeffrey Anderson, Katie Best, Joao Boavida, Jason Einertson, Marshall Johnson, Mariam Maiga, Kris Schwebler, Alicia Smith.

GUESTS: Mark Lewandowski.

1. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Mariam Maiga reported that Crookston had their Winter Wonderland event this past weekend.

Katie Best stated that UMDSA's better neighbors program has enrolled about 30 people per block. UMDSA had an open house last night and is working on academic advising. Lastly, the Bulldogs are playing in the national football final this Saturday.

Alicia Smith said that Support the U Day will be February 25, 2009. MSA will hold a student concern forum in March and a free tax preparation program spring semester. Study Day is this Friday in Coffman.

Joao Boavida reported that the Finance and Planning Committee (SCFP) has been discussing tuition and would like a more transparent process for determining increases. Student committee members have been brainstorming on this topic and are concerned about increases to fees due to budget costs. He will be meeting with the Vice President for Finance next week about students being more involved in the college-level budget process. Last week the committee heard about the Academic Health Center (AHC) campus expansion.

2. DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION ON THE TWIN CITIES SMOKING BAN

Ryan Kennedy presented a resolution on a Twin Cities Smoking Ban that was authored by several senators after last week's meeting.

Members made the following comments:

- If the resolution just applies to the Twin Cities, then MSA and GAPSA should take action instead of the Student Senate
- References to Duluth environment are not evidential
- Enforcement is an issue since the University decided that University Police will have no authority to issue tickets

- University charter does allow it to issue traffic violations, so why not smoking violations
- A ban was instituted at Century College. Student Senate should speak to representatives to talk about implementation
- University's cessation program is under-utilized
- Advertising and outreach programs are non-existent
- Survey responses are biased since the questions were leading
- Second and fourth 'whereas' clauses should be removed
- Report is due by the end of the calendar year
- An electronic vote would be needed to get Student Senate approval prior to the end of the year
- Decision should not be made without student consultation, even if this means delaying a final decision
- Students have concerns about the process for the survey and report
- Students might support the ban if it was enforceable

The committee agreed that today's comments would be shared with the authors so revisions could be made. A new version would then be emailed to SSCC on Monday for approval before it is sent to the Twin Cities student senators for an electronic vote with no amendments possible.

3. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT SENATE/UNIVERSITY SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT ON STUDENT SENATE ATTENDANCE

The Bylaw amendment was approved as amended.

4. DISCUSSION OF TEXTBOOK RESOLUTION

Ryan Kennedy said that this resolution did not make last week's Student Senate agenda, but has been approved by MSA. Members agreed to put the resolution on the next Student Senate agenda.

5. DISCUSSION OF REMOVAL OF ONE TWIN CITIES STUDENT SENATOR

Ryan Kennedy presented a petition for reinstatement of a Twin Cities student senator who was being removed after failing to attend two Student Senate meetings. Following a discussion, members agreed to not reinstate the student senator.

6. DISCUSSION OF SPRING SEMESTER BUSINESS

Members made the following list of potential items for spring semester:

- Vice Provost McMaster and the Twin Cities advanced placement credit changes
- Donna Peterson to discuss Support the U Day and the February state budget forecast
- Vice President Pfutzenreuter and proposed tuition increases
- President Bruininks
- Student release questions and One-Stop
- Students allowed to attend Support the U Day

7. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Ryan Kennedy thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate