

[In these minutes: Textbook discussion with Vice Provost McMaster, Rochester representation]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

January 21, 2010

[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: Kathy Julik-Heine (chair), Jeffrey Anderson, Aaron Carlson, Manjari Govada, Andrew Heairet, Jonathan Lundberg, Andrew Smith, Greg Summers.

REGRETS: Kris Schwebler, John Worden.

GUESTS: Vice Provost Robert McMaster.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Kathy Julik-Heine said that the Advancing Excellence Steering Committee met in December to review workplans from units and make suggestions, the Minnesota Daily contacted her about coverage and asked that any items be forwarded for a possible story, and the Finance and Planning Committee released a statement on space use and cost asking that the University know the needs of its users in each building.

2. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Jonathan Lundberg stated that tri-college leadership college was help with Lake Superior State and St. Scholastica to look at enrichment and recruiting of area high school students.

Greg Summers said that Recyclemania is taking place on campus and CSA is joining the Society for Leadership and Success.

Manjari Govada reported that MCSA is still working on its technology fee changes and is starting voting for the campus assembly constitution.

Jeffrey Anderson stated that the last in a breakfast series will finish tomorrow with the focus being on training students for lobbying. The last week in February is the third graduate student conference on campus.

Aaron Carlson noted that MSA's course rank is running well with almost 2400 students participating and the complain.umn.edu website is now active.

3. DISCUSSION WITH VICE PROVOST ROBERT MCMASTER REGARDING TEXTBOOKS AND STUDENT RELEASE QUESTIONS

Vice Provost Robert McMaster joined the meeting to discuss textbooks and the best practices guidelines that were developed by the University in 2007. These were meant to be strategies to maintain or reduce costs. Many faculty do not look at costs when choosing textbooks for courses; they simply choose what is most appropriate for their course without knowing the cost for the students. It also hurts the students if they require books late in the process as this affects the options students have to purchase books through other means.

He said that he has spoken with Bob Crabb and Wendy Lougee about other options for students including:

- Rental Book Program – Students using this program pay 40 percent of the cost of a new book. The University is the first major institution to engage in this type of program. It has a limited, but growing list of titles; 100 titles from Fall 2008 until now. The concern from the Bookstore is that a book in this program needs to be used between 2-4 times for it to pay for itself. A new automatic system is being used to coordinate the process.
- Ebooks Program – This Bookstore is not going well. It only has 500 titles, some restrictions, and the cost is 50 percent of the new textbook price. If students print out the book, the cost is the same. The Bookstore will start carrying an e-reader, but at this time students are not migrating towards this option.
- Used Book Program – The use of this program has doubled in the last five years. A wholesaler used to be involved, but now the Bookstore buys books directly from the students for resale as this allows for a better student discount.
- Discounting Books – The Bookstore offered a five percent discount on textbooks last year, but this percentage varies per year.

Q: What effect does the best practices guidelines have?

A: These guidelines are not required, so it is hard to know.

Q: When e-books were started, was there a correlation to use in online classes?

A: It is hard to tell since e-books started 2-3 years ago but online classes have been in use longer.

Q: Will the number of titles in the book rental program be expanded?

A: The Bookstore is trying to expand the number of titles, but this is a new program limited to courses with high numbers of students each semester.

Q: Do each of the campus bookstore interact with each other?

A: Interactions likely take place between University-owned bookstore, but likely not with private entities.

Members made the following comments:

- Most students look for used books as they are a great deal for the buyers, but not the sellers
- Many students find books from friends who have already taken the class
- Most of the changes in science and math books are problems and photos

- Reading online leads to skimming
- E-book pricing should be investigated since a calculus book can be \$100 cheaper
- E-books are eco-friendly but many want the book in their hands
- E-books do not hold students attention
- Some e-books do not permit downloading which means that the student loses the text when the subscription ends
- Students want to know the real cost to publish a book
- More faculty should know about the reserve program at the libraries

As for the Student Release Questions, he said that the committee should work with Vice Provost Arlene Carney as her office is the one who reminds faculty to release their responses.

4. DISCUSSION OF ROCHESTER REPRESENTATION IN THE STUDENT SENATE AND SSCC

Kathy Julik-Heine discussed the handout detailing the number of students in each college/campus and the coordinating number of Student Senate seats for next year. She would like to ask members for their thoughts on adding Rochester to the list of units with representation in the Student Senate and the affect that it will have on representation in other units.

Members made the following comments:

- Should Rochester be admitted now or wait until they have a higher number of students?
- Rochester is admitting its own students so inclusion in the Student Senate would legitimize the campus and engage students from the start
- This change is more than adding a seat but is a symbol of the campus's status
- Should interest be sought before a seat is created?

Q: Is Rochester represented in the Faculty Senate?

A: Not at this time.

A motion was approved to draft a bylaw amendment to add Rochester as a unit in the Student Senate.

The committee then briefly discussed a Rochester seat on SSCC and if it would be taken from the current 10 seats or if a new one would be added. If added, members asked how this would affect the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC) and the University Senate. It was suggested that a preliminary discussion be held at today's SCC meeting.

5. ITEMS FOR MARCH 4 SENATE MEETING

Kathy Julik-Heine said that possible items for the next Student Senate meeting include a discussion with President Bruininks, the Rochester bylaw amendment, an update on the Advancing Excellence Steering Committee work, course book costs, a discussion on space use, and an update on the student release questions.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Kathy Julik-Heine thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate