

[In these minutes: Campus updates, student evaluation update, spring semester agenda items]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

DECEMBER 15, 2005

[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: Josh Breyfogle (chair), Nicolas Allyn, Blake Hogan, William Kusch, Rick Orr, Timothy Tangen, Dion Turgeon, Jared Warren.

ABSENT: Brian Edstrom, Anthony Kouba.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Josh Breyfogle reported that he is still working on the student housing issue.

2. CAMPUS UPDATES

Dion Turgeon reported that Crookston is enjoying the new student center and is working on plans for a new dormitory on campus. CSA is planning a student government retreat for spring semester. He noted that it has been hard for CSA officers to attend Senate meetings this semester, but that alternates have been used when possible.

Jared Warren said that Morris had a Toys for Tots drive that raised over \$600. MCSA is prepping for elections in February and seeking applications for hired positions. One change will be a new SSCC representative for spring semester since he is graduating. MCSA is also working on technology fee allocations and creating a workshop to teach units how to prepare technology request proposals.

Rick Orr noted that MSA passed a resolution to look into Coca-Cola business practices in India, approved all-campus election rules, and tabled a vote on using cage-free eggs on campus.

Timothy Tangen noted that the UMDSA executive board met this morning with Chancellor Martin to discuss student issues. She asked UMDSA to take a stance on the overuse of alcohol on campus, which is ironic since the assembly just endorsed a pub crawl next semester. Library hours on campus have been extended during finals, until 2 am, with a light snack and beverage served at midnight.

3. UPDATE ON STUDENT EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Rick Orr reported that he was contacted by Professor McCormick, Educational Policy Committee Chair, to see if he knew what was happening. Rick Orr said that he would contact Professor Rodriguez about the pilot so that the questions are usable for spring semester.

Members then asked if the current questions could be forwarded to each of the coordinate campuses.

4. DISCUSSION OF SPRING SEMESTER AGENDA ITEMS

Members discussed the list of possible agenda items generated by the Student Senate at its last meeting and made the following comments:

- Civic engagement should be looked at
- Student senators should be asked to help with items
- Lists needs to be ordered or prioritized
- University should consider replacing traffic lights with light-emitting diodes to save funds [Street lights are city property and not paid for by the University]
- SLC should be invited to SSCC meetings and SSCC members should go to SLC meetings
- More communication is needed between student governments
- SLC should be brought back to the Senate-level instead of being left to campus governments
- Student Senate could create its own lobbying group, but this would compete with SLC
- Campus SLCs working separate is a problem since the organization should represent the entire student body
- Better connection is needed with the Regents
- Better partnership is needed with Faculty Senate and Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC)
- SSCC members should consider forming a relationship with individual FCC members, as was done between the two chairs last year
- Items could be referred to other committees

Members then decided to group the list of topics into three categories:
Student Affairs

- Partnership with Student Legislative Coalition
- Involvement in steering capital planning ideas
- Use of collapsible goal posts that conform with NCAA safety standards
- Discussion of Student Conduct Code being applied to off-campus incidents
- Change in excused absence policy from class to attend funerals
- Implementation of new student evaluation questions
- Improve process for internal student transfers
- Look into civic engagement and take a position

Housing

- Safety for commuter students, including help with landlords and housing that is up to code
- Housing for international students
- University-wide housing policy to deal with international students and non-traditional students

Internal

- Increased participation in administrative searches
- Communication with administrators
- Watching business being brought to the Faculty Senate
- More communication with the Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators and the Civil Service Committee
- Work with the student representatives on the Senate committees on better communication with them
- Discuss restructuring the University Senate to have more committee issues dealt with in that body

It was decided that SSCC would handle the list of internal items, and that senators would be asked to sign up for one of the other two groups and then pick a topic that they would like to work on. A special Student Senate meeting would be added in February to get groups working on items for final presentation at the later spring semester meetings, with updates on research at the March meeting. An email would be sent to senators announcing the special meeting and asking them to sign up for one of the two groups.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Committee members discussed the removal of a committee member for non-attendance and voted in favor of this removal.

With no further business, Josh Breyfogle thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate