

[In these minutes: Alcohol Task Force Report, 2004-05 Student Senate Budget Approval, Reorganization vote follow-up, proposed Welcome Week discussion, 2004-05 SSCC/Student Senate Vice Chair election]

## **STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES**

**MAY 6, 2004**

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

**PRESENT:** Dan Weiske (chair), Joshua Colburn, James Kantan, Scott LeBlanc, Seyon Nyanwleh, Tom Pielow, Colin Schwensohn, Charles Stech, Jeremy Steil, Stace Vonderhaar, Nathan Wanderman.

**ABSENT:** Sean Bell, Derek Brunsberg, Levi Kary, Adam Van Wagner.

**GUESTS:** LeeAnn Melin.

Introductions of the 2004-05 members were made

### **1. FINAL REPORT OF THE ALCOHOL TASK FORCE**

Charles Stech presented the final report of the Alcohol Task Force, noting that it encompasses the comment received via email and at the meetings from members. He asked for feedback from the committee.

Members made the following comments:

- Topic is worth further discussion; it is hard to reach a conclusion at this time
- Expanded service and sale of alcohol on campus should be further considered because of the dangers involved in unsecure locations
- Connection with Student Affairs is needed

Q: If the task force came to a conclusive decision, then why is another committee recommended?

A: The working group recommended alcohol be served on campus, but the next committee should determine in what manner the service take place and what the implementation timeframe should be.

Q: How was information collected?

A: The working group received information from the General Counsel's Office, Alcohol,

Tobacco, and Other Drug group, the Assistant Vice President for Public Safety, Boynton, and past committee work on the topic.

The committee then approved the report as amended. The report will be presented to student senators and placed on the SSCC web site.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE 2004-05 STUDENT SENATE BUDGET**

Charles Stech then presented the Student Senate budget request. It includes a 15 percent stipend increase to compensate the rate of tuition increase, a separate informational meeting at the beginning of the year for student committee members, ITV for Student Senate meetings to increase communication, funding for officer travel to the coordinate campuses, and a stipend for the Student Affairs Committee Chair. The budget was then approved with the provision that the total request be the same as the previous year's allocation.

## **3. FOLLOW-UP ON THE REORGANIZATION VOTE**

Dan Weiske said that the electronic vote on two motions from the April Senate meeting has been completed, but neither item received the votes needed for approval, so both motions will return to the Senate next September. A member noted that it is unfortunate that another vote needs to take place so early next year when there will be so many new senators.

## **4. DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED WELCOME WEEK**

LeeAnn Melin, Director of Orientation and First Year Programs, said that a Welcome Week for all new students is being proposed for 2005. All entering freshmen will start five days early, on the Wednesday before Labor Day. This will be an opportunity to build on orientation, present students with more information, build a sense of tradition, help students find their place, and connect with their college and academics. With this program, New Student Weekend will no longer be offered.

She then distributed an overview of the proposal. Wednesday will feature dorm move-in and kick-off events. Thursday will feature small group discussions, convocation, transition to campus, and student life issues. Friday will focus on the colleges in the morning with academic and research advising and the afternoon will be for student organization connections. Saturday and Sunday will focus on connections with the community through service learning opportunities, as well as introductions to arts and athletic events on campus. Monday will be reserved as a relaxation day before classes start, but a trip to the State Fair will be offered. Each night will have late-night programming scheduled. She then asked members for their feedback on the proposal.

Members made the following comments:

- There should be a bigger push for student organizations and leadership opportunities
- Many students are dissatisfied with the level of preparation they receive as a freshmen
- This program will be a positive step from the New Student Weekend

- A Target and grocery store run should be offered
- A trip to the bookstore should also be incorporated so students can buy their books before classes start
- Students should be provided with entertainment options around the Cities
- Student life issues will be a hard sell for some students, who might choose to duck out

Q: How will this program be funded?

A: All students will be charged \$125, with other departments providing other funding. 800-900 students currently pay \$110 to attend the New Student Weekend.

Q: Will participation be required?

A: All entering freshmen will be required to attend. This will be challenging the first year, and as through some of the programming.

Q: Will commuter students be provided on-campus housing during the Welcome Week?

A: No since these rooms will be allocated to other students moving onto campus. Park and ride locations, as well as bussing options will be made available for commuter students. The same activities want to be provided for all students. Tents set-up on the mall might also be a possibility to keep commuters on campus.

Q: How many students will be participating?

A: Roughly 5300.

Q: Will this program allow the University to offer a one-day orientation just focused on academics?

A: It is possible that orientation could be slightly shortened, but a full session needs to be offered since most students come from a distance. More also needs to be done for transfer students. This program, however, will allow orientation to go slower and focus more on academics rather than student life issues.

Q: What role will student leaders play?

A: The program will provide 40 students a leadership opportunity, however more students are needed to finalize program planning.

## **5. ELECTION OF THE 2004-05 STUDENT SENATE/SSCC VICE CHAIR**

Tom Pielow was elected as the 2004-05 Student Senate/SSCC Vice Chair.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dan Weiske said that under the Senate proposal, the number of student representatives on SCC will be reduced from nine to seven. Six of the seven seat assignments have been made, one from each campus and the Student Senate/SSCC Chair. The last seat still needs to be decided. There are two proposals, either the Student Senate/SSCC Vice Chair or a second representative from the Twin Cities undergraduates. A member noted that the Twin Cities undergraduates form the largest student group and should receive a second representative. Another member then proposed that the discussion be postponed until next year and a decision be made by the next SSCC. The motion was approved.

With no further business, Dan Weiske thanked all members for their service this year and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate