

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 10, 2010
Morrill Hall Room 238A

[In these minutes: Boynton Health Services Update, Student Affairs Update, committee business]

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

PRESENT: Silvia Canelon (Co-Chair), Brandee Polson, Patricia Nguyen, Carlos Torelli, Thomas Bilder, Amelious Whyte, Elena Machkasova, Lauren Schrader, Elizabeth Vose, Kendre Turonie, Rachael Nguyen, Adam Arling, Kristy Eder

REGRETS: Joyce Holl, Thomas Reynolds

ABSENT: Christiane Bartels, Anthony Albecker, Thomas Rozeske, Nathan Pelzer

GUESTS: Susann Jackson, Director of Student Health Benefits

Silvia Canelon, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present. She asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

Boynton Health Services Update (student health insurance) – Susann Jackson

Ms. Jackson began with a discussion of national healthcare reform legislation as it relates to the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). She noted the objective of health care reform is to provide everyone access to affordable health insurance. She stated the University of Minnesota has already done this by making proof of health insurance a condition of enrollment. This requirement has allowed the University to develop a comprehensive affordable plan. There are, however, some compliance requirements of the federal law that will impact the University student health plan.

The University SHBP has annual limitations on preventive care. These limits on preventive care are designed to keep the plan affordable, and student fees cover most things not covered by the SHBP. Federal law, however, requires elimination of limits to essential preventive care limits. So, Boynton Health Services is looking at a cost shift of \$300,000.00 from the student fee revenue source to the SHBP. Additionally, federal law will require the health plan to provide coverage for some essential benefits that are not currently covered, such as immunizations. The immunizations will not be covered by student fees and will bring an additional cost of \$200,000 to the SHBP.

Ms. Jackson next addressed how Boynton Health Service will make up the cost increase caused by compliance with health care reform. One possibility is changing the way the

waiver for mandatory purchase of the student health benefit plan is applied. In the Academic Health Center, students must provide a certificate of coverage in order to receive a waiver, but all other students self-report. Polls of students indicate seven to ten percent of them report they have no health coverage. So, one way to keep costs down is to put in the same restrictive waiver requiring proof of coverage that the AHC students comply with. This will create an enrollment gain offsetting the increased costs of the plan due to removal of limits on essential benefits.

Ms. Jackson went on to state the changes in federal legislation would result in insurance companies promoting high deductible low cost plans. One result of the gravitation to individual plans with high deductibles is that students go without some services such as mental health care. This occurs when the student needs a service that Boynton does not provide and the student's deductible is too high for them to afford the care. Ms. Jackson noted she believes this trend will increase as the health care exchanges arise. Some factors that will keep the University SHBP more attractive to students, however, is that the enrollment gain will keep the cost of the plan down, and students can have the cost of the SHBP included in the student financial aid package.

Next, Ms. Jackson discussed the impact on student service fees of the migration to high deductible plans. She stated that currently the student service fee picks up the cost of uncovered clinical services except some co-payments drugs and supplies. As participation in high-deductible plans increases student service fees will not be able to cover as much. So Boynton Health Service administration is deliberating the fair usage of the student fees. Some of the questions they are seeking Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) input on include:

- Should student fees increase because some students have chosen a high deductible plan?
- Is it reasonable to expect that Boynton will continue to provide student fee benefits on such a rich scale?
- If a student has chosen to self-insure, should their student fees no longer cover services at Boynton?
- For purposes of waiver from the student health benefit plan, should Boynton look at whether a student's coverage is provided by an out of network plan?

Ms. Canelon asked what cost controls Boynton is putting in place for pharmaceuticals. Ms. Jackson responded that they use generics, track which medications are in the greatest demand and which are the most cost-effective to meet those demands, consult with a formulary committee consisting of BHS physicians, MHC Director and the Pharmacy Manager, and they put students in touch with drug companies that have programs for people with limited or no coverage. Professor Elena Machkasova asked if the health benefits plan was the same for coordinate campuses. Ms. Jackson stated that the benefits provided by the health insurance plan are the same, but the use of student fees varies on the coordinate campuses. Amelious Whyte, chief of staff, Office of Student Affairs (OSA), asked who is responsible for educating students on their health insurance options. Ms. Jackson responded that Boynton Health Service is responsible for this and education will be provided between now and fall 2012, when the changes to the health insurance

program will occur. Thomas Bilder, Boynton Health Service fiscal officer, stated that the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) also provides advice, but that it is important for students to become more astute consumers of health insurance. He stated further that Boynton must help students understand that the University student health plan is still the best plan available. It has no deductible, and there is no plan to change this. It is also extremely efficient. It costs Blue Cross Blue Shield 25% more to provide the level of benefits provided by Boynton. He encouraged students to spread the word to others about using the Boynton system.

Brandee Polson commented that she was not required to prove she had health insurance when she enrolled in the Carlson School of Management masters program. Ms. Jackson stated to be eligible for the student health benefit plan, students must be admitted to a degree program and registered for six or more credits that count toward the automatic assessment for Student Service Fees. She noted that the Carlson School opted out of having students pay student fees for certain programs, and therefore students are not eligible for the SHBP. Professor Carlos Torelli asked if Boynton had considered having a minimum coverage requirement on outside health plans selected by students. Ms. Jackson stated they were looking at this possibility.

She went on to state that with a few exceptions all international students must purchase the Boynton plan. But, there is a weakness in the process. Students can purchase coverage at the time of registration and then drop it a few months later. Currently, at registration students must indicate whether they have health insurance coverage. If they do not indicate they are covered, they are charged for the SHBP. In the future, students may be charged first and then have the opportunity to prove coverage and receive a waiver. Professor Machkasova asked if it would be more expensive to administer the waiver program in this way. Ms. Jackson responded that more staff might be needed to administer the waiver program in the future, but the administrative costs may be offset by the increased enrollment.

Ms. Canelon noted that she is an international student and the waiver process has been different each time she has registered. Ms. Jackson stated that waivers for international students are only granted to students from Saudi Arabia and Norway. All other international students must purchase the University SHBP, or prove coverage under a United States employer-sponsored group plan. She indicated she would look into the ways in which the waiver process is being administered. Ms. Jackson provided committee members with her contact information and offered to answer any questions they may have. Ms. Canelon thanked Ms. Jackson.

Student Affairs Update – Amelious Whyte

Newsletter - Mr. Whyte stated the OSA, Undergraduate Education, and the Office of Equity and Diversity are partnering to produce a newsletter for students that is similar to *Brief*. It will include messages from several departments and come out about every two weeks. The purpose is to decrease the number of e-mails sent from separate departments. The target date for the newsletter is early December.

Winter Closure - Mr. Whyte reminded the committee that the University of Minnesota Twin Cities (TC) campus would be closed between Dec. 24, 2010 and Jan. 2, 2011. These dates vary slightly for coordinate campuses. During this time, University services and business offices will be closed. Only essential services will be open. There is additional information on the Student Affairs web site:
<http://www.osa.umn.edu/universitywinterclosure.html>

Shared Governance – Mr. Whyte updated the committee about progress on increased participation for students in the shared governance of the University. He stated that a memorandum of understanding laying out a broad plan to determine if there should be a Board of Regent’s policy or an Administrative Policy has been developed. The memorandum will likely be signed by the President, the Minnesota Student Association, the Graduate and Professional Student Association, and the Student Senate by the end of the year.

Coffman Union Student Office Space – Mr. Whyte explained that approximately twenty or thirty of the 700 University of Minnesota student groups have office space in Coffman Union. In order to retain this space, they must demonstrate that the space is being used and they must not violate the terms of their leases. Student service fees pay for the space. Several student groups believe the method of allocating space is unfavorable to new groups and favors existing groups such as the student cultural centers. A committee was created to consider the demand for the space and make recommendations in spring 2011. Some options under consideration are reconfiguring the space on the second floor and providing student space in new buildings.

Student Service Fees Report – Mr. Whyte reported that Vice Provost Jerry Rinehart responded the Student Services Fees Report.
<http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/index.html>, and accepted many of the recommendations. Mr. Whyte highlighted two recommendations that were not accepted. The Student Services Fees Review Committee’s recommendation for a staged fee application process was considered unworkable for the fees process. Instead, student organization leaders would sign a statement that they are aware of the application deadline. Mr. Whyte outlined OSA’s response regarding the process for vetting and formally acting upon resolutions of the fees committee. He stated the Fees Advisor would decide which resolutions should be advisory and which are material to the fees process. A meeting would occur between the Vice Provost, committee chairs, and the Fees Advisor. The material resolutions would be shared with the SCSA and the SCSA would provide review and recommendations regarding resolutions upon which there is disagreement. Mr. Whyte stated that in the spring the OSA would conduct a more complete review of the Student Services Fees Report and consider in particular those issues identified in the report as “outside the scope of the committee.” He stated further that OSA would conduct a review of the fees process at a regular interval – approximately every four or five years.

Proposed Changes to SCSA Charge – Mr. Whyte stated that the SCSA had requested the input of the OSA on proposed changes to its charge. The changes would eliminate the

Student Services Fees Subcommittee and incorporate many of the subcommittee's duties back into the committee's charge.¹ Mr. Whyte stated it is valuable to have another set of eyes to review student services fees issues, and Vice Provost Rinehart will still bring appropriate fees issues to the SCSA whether or not there is a specific fees subcommittee. He also noted that the SCSA is a system wide committee and it should take care to include the coordinate campuses in any changes it makes to its charge. He also noted that the OSA agrees that the SCSA should review changes to fees policies and procedures. But, he noted that typically the administration makes recommendations to Board of Regents Policy. And he believes it would be more appropriate for the committee to make recommendations about Board Policy to the administration rather than to Student Senate Consultative Committee.

Proposed Changes to the SCSA Charge

Ms. Canelon referred to committee members to the draft SCSA charge and explained to new committee members the reason for the proposed elimination of the Student Services Fee Subcommittee from the charge. The subcommittee not been used for several years and the changes are intended to make the charge better reflect the actual work of the SCSA. Ms. Polson expressed concern that the changes not impact the committee's ability to understand the coordinate campus perspectives. Ms. Canelon explained that the revisions would not eliminate the SCSA's duty to review an annual report from the student services fee committee on each campus.

¹ **Duties and Responsibilities**

e. ~~To provide for a Student Services Fee Subcommittee composed of two faculty representatives, five student representatives (one each from Crookston, Duluth, Morris, Twin Cities graduate/professional, and Twin Cities undergraduate), and four voting ex officio staff members (one each from Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Twin Cities with the coordinate campus representatives appointed by the Vice Chancellor of each campus and the Twin Cities representative appointed by the Office of Student Development). The student and faculty membership of the Subcommittee shall be taken from the membership of the Senate Committee on Student Affairs unless there is no representative meeting the designated criteria. In such case, the seat in question shall be filled by a member of the Senate Consultative Committee, or their designee, meeting the designated criteria. The chair of the Student Affairs Committee shall serve as the chair of the Subcommittee and will fill one of the designated seats as appropriate. Staff support for the Subcommittee will be provided by the Senate Office. Duties and Responsibilities of the Subcommittee include:~~

1. ~~To receive and review an annual report from the Chair of the Student Services Fee Committee operating on each campus, as well as any other reports pertaining to fees such as an annual summary of waivers granted permitted in the Regents Policy.~~
2. ~~To recommend to the Vice Chancellor or the Office of Student Development (as appropriate), in consultation with the senior administrator of the Student Services Fee process on each campus, any changes in the individual campus policies and/or procedures for the allocation of the Student Services Fee on that campus, as well as to address issues noted in resolutions submitted annually by fees committees on that campus.~~
3. ~~To review any changes to the Student Services Fee policies and/or procedures on each of the campuses.~~
4. ~~To recommend to the Student Senate Consultative Committee, changes to the Regents Policy on the Student Services Fee.~~

Mr. Whyte asked for language to clarify the word review in paragraph three. He wanted it to be clear that the committee is reviewing and providing feedback to the appropriate administrator, but not “approving” changes to the Student Service Fee policies or procedures. The committee adopted the following underlined language:
To review any changes to the Student Services Fee policies and/or procedures on each of the campuses, and provide feed back to the appropriate administrator.”

Professor Machkasova asked if it would be possible to create a separate document setting up a timeline and expectation for coordinate campuses to provide reports to the committee. Mr. Whyte stated that Vice Provost Rinehart could provide the names of the appropriate individuals who handle student fees on the coordinate campuses.

Ms. Canelon stated she would provide the revised charge to Vice Provost Rinehart for his feedback at the co-chairs November 19 meeting with him. Following the meeting, the charge would be e-mailed to the committee for final input. The completed charge would be brought to the SCSA for vote at the February meeting.

2010-11 Agenda

Ms. Canelon asked the committee to review the list of suggested agenda items that they received prior to the meeting. She gave a brief description of the items, and asked the committee to prioritize them and submit their list to her via e-mail. The list and description are as follows:

1. **Methods to increase communication and outreach between student groups and the Student Affairs Committee.** Developing contacts with GAPSA, MSA, student boards, and the Student Senate.
2. **Career Center initiatives** – Are there new initiatives? How is the Career Center assisting students in the current economic climate?
3. **Information on campus safety** – Update from Greg Hestness, Assistant Vice President of Public Safety and Chief of Police. Are there fall safety initiatives on coordinate campuses? Are the safety initiatives meeting students’ needs?
4. **International Student Services** – What resources are available? How have these fluctuated over time? How can this committee assist in insuring students’ needs are being met?
5. **Center for Academic Advising** – How is it assisting students to graduate in four years?
6. **Leadership opportunities** – Learn more about student ambassadors. Are these volunteer positions or compensated? Do these positions exist on coordinate campuses?
7. **Shared governance policy-** Learn more about how students are involved in the decision making process at the University, particularly on issues that impact them. Invite

speakers from Minnesota Student Association , GAPSA, and the Student Senate.

8. Review of the Student Conduct Code - anti-bullying policies at the University – The Student Conduct Code is currently being reviewed. In February or March, the Office of Student Affairs will be bringing a draft to the Student Affairs Committee for its input.

9. Impact on students of the Graduate School restructuring – Update from Graduate School Dean Henning Schroeder on the progress of the restructuring of the Graduate School. This is an opportunity for the SCSA to provide feedback on how this is impacting students.

10. Boynton Health Services update, use of student fees – Invite Edward Ehlinger, Director of Boynton Health Services, for a follow up discussion on the upcoming changes to student health services in light of the national health care reform.

11. Transcript reform – Is there grade inflation at the University of Minnesota? Should the University consider providing narrative information on transcripts, not just letter grades, to make transcripts more informative for potential employers and graduate schools? This is a topic being considered at Indiana University and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

12. New technologies on campus and in classrooms and the impact on students – Update from the Office of Information Technology and /or Office of Classroom Management on their initiatives for new technology on campus, and feed back from this committee on the technology students need on campus and in their classrooms.

Hearing no further business, adjourned the meeting.

Dawn Zugay
University Senate Office