

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 27, 2013

[In these minutes: Student housing update; Student Behavior Procedure vote; Tobacco-Free Campus update.]

[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: Joyce Holl (co-chair), Brandee Polson (co-chair), Thomas Bilder, Peter Haeg, Katie Roehl, Meghan Sable, Carlos Torelli, Kendre Turonie, Michael Vargas

GUESTS: David Golden, director, Public Health and Communication, Boynton Health Service; Becky Hippert, committee specialist, University Senate Office;

REGRETS: Lisa Erwin, Marcus Guith, Sam Ketchum, Amelious Whyte

ABSENT: Lauren Beach, Michael Stebleton

Joyce Holl and Brandee Polson, co-chairs, called the meeting to order.

STUDENT HOUSING UPDATE

Ms. McLaughlin provided members with information regarding student housing on campus.

- This fall, 86% of entering freshman obtained housing provided by the University. This number continues to increase each year. Housing is guaranteed for all students that apply and are admitted by May 1st.
- Expanded housing is necessary to accommodate the guarantee and this year 390 students had a temporary placement. One example of extended housing is a lounge in a residence hall that has been converted to a sleeping space. Some of the current spaces are expanded, for example a single is used as a double. Housing acknowledges this displacement is disruptive and if a permanent space has not been found before December, the students have the choice to remain in the temporary placement or move when another option is available.
- Students are released from housing contracts if they:
 - Study abroad
 - Leave the University
 - Graduate
 - Medical, financial, or significant life changes
 - Quick release allows students out of a contract early in the fall semester

- Students living in University Housing are comprised of: 40% from the TC metro area; 35% from MN outside of the TC area; 17% from out of state; 8% international students.
- Transfer students often have issues obtaining on campus housing. Each year, between 1,800-2,400 students transfer into the University and last year, only 64 transfer students were offered spaces.
- There are 25 Living Learning Communities (LLC), primarily for first year students. They are developed in partnership with college departments and approximately 1,100 students reside in the LLC's. There are four new LLC's being created for next year and three of them will be for transfer students.
- Home in Minnesota is a program that helps students from out-of-state connect with others from their home state.

Ms. McLaughlin distributed a handout of photos of the 17th Avenue residence hall. She described some of the amenities:

- A fresh food dining facility that is open to the public
- A large community lounge on each floor for all floor members
- Study rooms

A Greek Life Task Force, commissioned by President Kaler and Provost Hanson, examined the Greek life on campus. Research has shown that students in the Greek system have higher GPA's than those that are not involved in Greek life. The task force determined that one of the chapters on campus that does not have a house could benefit from using one of the chapter rooms in the new residence hall. The hall will soon be named at the recommendation of a naming committee.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR PROCEDURES

Ms. Hippert distributed proposed changes to the student behavior procedures via email, before the meeting. She explained that the Student Behavior Committee hears violations of the Student Conduct Code, ranging from scholastic dishonesty to theft and property damage. The following changes were made to the language of the procedures and require committee approval:

- The language was changed to reflect the importance of a faculty member being present in hearings of scholastic dishonesty.
- If more than one student is involved, a joint hearing will be conducted, but this change states that a student can request a separate hearing.
- Students will be made aware that the hearing is being recorded prior to the start of the hearing.

In response to a question, Ms. Hippert explained that when necessary, accommodations are made for students in conjunction with Disability Services. Interpreters are provided by request in the event of a language barrier. Every effort is made to ensure the student is successful in their hearing.

Ms. Hippert stated that Vice Provost Rinehart and the Student Behavior Committee previously approved the changes in the procedures.

The Student Affairs Committee approved of the changes in a vote by voice.

TOBACCO FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Mr. Schlapper and Mr. Golden distributed a PowerPoint presentation and a copy of the Social Concerns Committee Resolution for a Tobacco Free Campus. Mr. Schlapper began by explaining that the Tobacco-Free Campus initiative was started with the intention of making campus a place where students can reach their full potential in a healthy and environment. Boynton Health Service has been a catalyst for gathering data, sharing it, and discussing the issue with all stakeholders. Mr. Schlapper explained that President Kaler agreed to continue this discussion with updated data and a widely demonstrated level of support on campus.

The PowerPoint outlined the following topics:

- Direction from President Kaler
- Protect the Health of all Students, Staff, Faculty, and Visitors
 - Among US College Campuses
 - 1,130 are 100% smoke free
 - Of these, 766 are 100% tobacco free
 - 49 smoke- or tobacco-free campuses in MN including
 - U of M – Crookston and Duluth
 - No campus has undone or reduced their policy
- Tobacco-Free Campuses: The New Norm
 - If you make smoking less convenient, this lowers the consumption rate of smokers and for this reason many smokers support the proposal
- Why tobacco free?
 - Provides a supportive environment for people to use less tobacco, quit using tobacco all together, or never start using tobacco in the first place
 - 99% of smokers begin smoking by age 26. If students don't start using tobacco by this age, they almost certainly will never start
- Why not designated areas?
 - Designated areas do not reduce SHS exposure for everyone, since designated areas are still part of the campus community
 - Designated areas can also still contribute litter
 - Most campuses have tried these areas and removed them
- How can this policy be enforced?
 - Social norm: tobacco-free policies change the social norm, and believe it or not, when it is not the norm people are less likely to do it!

- Trainings will be offered regarding how to approach a colleague in a positive way
 - Signage, education
 - With signage and education it has been found that there is a 95% compliance rate at the outset of the policy
- Question: In an average week, where have you been exposed to second hand smoke?
 - The graph showed that faculty, staff, and students are exposed to second hand smoke most frequently outside on campus
- Question: Do you support the implementation of a policy that would prohibit tobacco use on all U of M property (both indoors and outdoors)?

Mr. Golden and Mr. Schlapper provided the following answers in response to questions from the committee:

- The goal is to make campus more inclusive. Those that do not want to be exposed to second-hand smoke should not have to leave if the solution is to have smokers have a cigarette off campus and return to the event after.
- The Surgeon General has reported that there is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.
- Visits to ER drops almost immediately when communities are tobacco-free. This creates a cost savings in health care for the entire community.
- Cigarette butts are the most common piece of litter.
- Universally, statistics have shown that productivity increases in workplaces that are tobacco-free. Employees take less frequent smoke breaks if they cannot conveniently step outside of their building and have a cigarette. This waiting time is similar to that of waiting to smoke until a movie is over in a theater.
- There will be a 12-18 month lead-time of announcing the policy to implementation. Cessation programs will be highlighted during this time. Currently, students, staff, and faculty have access to free cessation programs: <http://www.bhs.umn.edu/health-information/smoking-cessation.htm>
- When smokers are given the information, policies are generally adhered to as evidenced by the cessation of smoking indoors. For example, signage outside of TCF will be the first line of implementation, but police and security officers will be able to direct smokers to areas off the campus grounds.
- International students have a lower rate of smoking than domestic users.
- Tobacco-free campus is used as a recruitment tool.
- The light rail, including stations, will be smoke-free.
- There have been no safety issues reported from students leaving on-campus housing to have a cigarette. The estimates are that 11-12% of the current student population will die a premature death from a tobacco related illness, which equates to 1.7-1.9 million students.
- Statistically, if an ashtray is more than six feet away, the butt will most likely become litter. This fact deters campuses from providing ashtrays because they will not prevent litter, they will encourage smokers to congregate.

- Chewing tobacco is included in the policy to remain in line with the overall goal of encouraging tobacco-use cessation.

Mr. Schlapper stated that the implementation process would be designed for President Kaler based on the best practices evidenced at other tobacco-free campuses. He asked that the committee consider the resolution further and they will provide the members a list of groups that are supportive. More information can be found at the "GOpher fresh air" Facebook page.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Holl adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office