

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC)

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 18, 2014

[In these minutes: Chair report; strategic planning overview; Student Association/Assembly updates; Ticket bundling and Access ramp resolutions - for action]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of 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: Valkyrie Jensen (chair), Alex Stangel (vice chair), Laddie Arnold, Martin Caride, Rob Stewart

OTHER: Frank Utech for Ryan Olson

GUEST: Kyle Kroll, Megan Mason

ABSENT: Nick Dalton, Sara Ford

1. WELCOME

Ms. Jensen convened the meeting and called for introductions.

2. CHAIR REPORT

Ms. Jensen began by stating some possible initiatives for the SSCC to consider:

- Cohesion within student government, between graduate and undergraduate students, and relationships between senators
- Advocate for Policy excellence
- Cost of attendance
- Sexual assault and related policies
- Opportunities for nontraditional students, such as those looking to return to the University after 10+ years of not being registered
- Mid-year course evaluations for instructors
- Increased scholarship opportunities

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING OVERVIEW

Meghan Mason, graduate student representative on the Strategic Planning Workgroup, began by giving an overview of the Twin Cities Strategic Plan. She directed the committee's attention to the Strategic Planning blog at strategic-plan@umn.edu.

Members had the following questions and Ms. Mason provided the following answers. Ms. Mason provided the summary that follows via email:

1. Is there a concern that students will be a part of these "Grand Challenges" but lose their disciplinary focus? Will employers think the Grand Challenges are a fine way to attract students, but detract from producing students who know their discipline well?
 - As discussed today, the work group felt strongly that the Grand Challenges curriculum would be the skills-based, service learning, and critical thinking opportunities that employers so strongly desire from our students. As one of you mentioned today, if we could have 100% participation by students in "something" outside of the classroom, which would be a great metric to hit. We see this as complementary to the discipline, and an invitation for students to engage in something bigger than just their coursework, but at this point, not a mandate. Dr. Renee Chang of the School of Design was one of the curriculum issue team co-leads.
2. What is the role of the professional student body in this plan?
 - I mentioned that the extra-curricular opportunities suggested by the curriculum team might be an opportunity for professional students to engage in leading or participating in seminars and lectures. And that the Humphrey School is actually among the leaders in Reciprocal Engagement. I suspect the experiences of the Humphrey School will be drawn upon heavily as the Reciprocal Engagement implementation strategies progress. Dr. Carissa Schively Slotterback of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs was the other curriculum issue co-lead and Dr. Catherine Squires of Communication Studies was a co-lead on the Reciprocal Engagement issue team.
3. How exactly is the "liberal education" going to change? Is there going to be continuity in coursework in Grand Challenges?
 - I explained that the intent is to pilot the Grand Challenges curriculum within the Honors Program. Having not been an undergraduate here, I'm not intimately familiar with the parts of the program that may begin to touch the Grand Challenges curriculum. However, it was discussed that maybe some of the research and service learning and capstone expectations of the Honors Program are the logical place to start. Again, Dr. Renee Chang would have the best understanding of those anticipated changes.
4. What makes a Grand Challenge?
 - A point of much discussion among the whole work group and the Grand Challenges Research issue team. The topics in which we are already strong in as an institution that had both local and global reach were in food, the environment, and building vibrant communities. These will likely be the initial focii. However, Dr. Al Levine, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs and Professor in the College of Food Science and Nutrition, Dr. Joe Konstan (Computer Science) and Dr. Ruben Harris (Biochemistry, Molecular Biology & Biophysics) had deep discussions about how to select the "grand challenges" moving forward.
5. The importance of students in building a campus climate of accountability, diversity, and civility.

- This is an area where I feel very strongly that the student leaders can and should partner with the administration. Rejecting complacency isn't just about faculty and staff, but that students are also demonstrating these traits of accountability and civility toward one another in and outside of the classroom. You're already working on issues of campus sexual assault, worried about access issues to the University, and making sure your voices get heard. I'm sure that you have ideas about how to promote these things as bettering the campus climate for all students. I encourage you to work with the administration to get some campus climate campaigns going just as you have for the MSA safety pledge last year, Step Up, and the Tobacco-Free campus initiative just to name a few. Dr. Chris Uggen (Sociology) and Dr. Jakub Tolar (Pediatrics) were the Rejecting Complacency issue team leads, but Amelious Whyte (Senior Associate Vice Provost) who co- led the Reciprocal Engagement team might also be a good fit here.

6. The role of system campus plans.

- Keep this conversation going! I know it's something the Regents were interested in last week too. For the system campuses who are with SSCC and Student Senate, I encourage you to have the discussion with your respective chancellors and/or administration to determine where your campus is in the process and how students can be involved.

4. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Minnesota Student Association (MSA)

Mr. Caride provided an update on MSA business:

- They have had one forum and they passed their budget.
- Report on sexual assault is available at minnesotastudentassociation.org
- Finished recruiting
- Voterpalooza - day long voter registration event on September 23, 2014

Council of Graduate Students (COGS)

Mr. Stewart informed members that COGS is developing a graduate student bill of rights, which focuses on research and academic freedom.

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA)

Mr. Stewart reported that they are trying to increase their outreach to professional councils.

Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA)

Mr. Arnold reported that MCSA is working on a number of things, including a minimum GPA for student leaders, the search for a permanent Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, a Wellness Week focusing on academic, physical, sexual and mental health, and the It's On Us campaign. For the first time, they are offering an Equity and Diversity Certificate.

5. STUDENT SENATE DOCKET APPROVAL

Ms. Jensen informed members that a governance structure overview would be added to the senator orientation at the Student Senate meeting.

Members approved the October 4, 2014, Student Senate Docket.

6. RESOLUTIONS DISCUSSION

Senator Kyle Kroll presented two resolutions for the committee to consider adding to the October 2, 2014 Senate Docket. While researching the two topics, Norwood Teague, athletic director, and Parking Transportation and Services did not respond to Mr. Kroll's request for information.

The members made the following comments in regard to the Resolution Against Student Season Ticket Bundling:

- Should a statement about Morris be added?
- Students feel wronged by this policy and it is very important that it is considered. Many feel disempowered by this practice.
- A member suggested the following word in italics be added: "WHEREAS this is a *regressive* policy that affects low income students..."

Mr. Kroll then presented the Resolution Calling on the University to Install a Wheelchair/Bike Accessible Ramp and members discussed.

Members unanimously approved both resolutions to be included on the October 2, 2014 Student Senate Agenda.

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

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office