

Senate Consultative Committee (SCC)
October 20, 2016
Minutes of the Meeting

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 represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** Discussion with Provost Hanson; Approval of November 3, 2016 Senate Docket; Other Business]

PRESENT: Colin Campbell (chair), Etty Deveaux, Raymond Muno, Catherine French, George Trachte, Robert Blair, Shawn Curley, Janet Ericksen, Joseph Konstan (vice chair), Ruth Okediji, Amy Pittenger, Jonathan Borowsky, Trish Palermo, Noelle Sjoquist

REGRETS: Catherine St. Hill, Duane Orlovski, Dan Feeney, Susan Wick, Greta Friedemann-Sanchez, Peggy Nelson, Peter Tiffin, Taylor Cronen, John Freude

ABSENT: Zane Bloom, Katie Ledermann

GUEST: Provost Karen Hanson

Professor Campbell convened the meeting, welcomed those present and called for a round of introductions.

1. **Discussion with Provost Hanson:** Professor Campbell welcomed Provost Hanson, and asked her to talk about whatever is on her mind. Provost Hanson began by noting that she, in conjunction with the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), recently charged a Joint Task Force on Student Mental Health (JTFSMH) to make recommendations on strategies for involving faculty in addressing student mental health issues. She said that the JTFSMH is being co-chaired by Professor Sue Wick and Dr. Gary Christenson, chief medical officer, Boynton Health. The task force, explained Provost Hanson, among other things, will look into faculty training on student mental health, best practices, and encouraging positive environments in an effort to reduce student stress. It is anticipated that the agenda the task force brings forward will be enriched by discussions with others on this topic; they have scheduled a series of meetings with various constituencies. The task force plans to submit a report by the end of the semester.

Are new faculty members given an orientation, asked Professor Curley, and, if so, is student mental health part of this orientation? Provost Hanson said while she is unfamiliar with how faculty are oriented on the other campuses, on the Twin Cities campus there is an orientation series for new faculty. Also, within the last few years, a ‘talking heads’ series has been launched, which involves bringing together department chairs/heads to talk about various issues.

Jonathan Borowsky, Council of Graduate Students (COGS) president, asked for an update on waitlists for student mental health counseling services. Provost Hanson said she does not have this information with her, but wanted Mr. Borowsky to know that Boynton Health is looking into additional modalities to provide ameliorative services in addition to counseling appointments.

Provost Hanson reassured that committee that constructive work is being done, which will reduce wait times.

Moving on, Provost Hanson talked about the system-wide strategic planning that is underway. The System-Wide Strategic Plan Committee's membership is in the process of being finalized, as is its meeting schedule. The assumption is that the committee's co-chairs, Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs Rebecca Ropers-Huilman and Rochester Chancellor Stephen Lehmkuhle, along with some of the committee's members will be visiting the system campuses and conducting listening session to get their input. Once the listening sessions on the system campuses and Twin Cities' campus are concluded, the committee will come together as a whole to develop recommendations, which will constitute the System-Wide Strategic Plan. The idea is that the committee will review the existing campus planning documents and look at annual reports that units may have done in connection with these planning documents on each campus. The Board of Regents requested that the institution have a System-Wide Strategic Plan.

Provost Hanson noted that the System-Wide Strategic Plan is treading a delicate line in terms of not imposing one vision on all the campuses. Part of the strength of the system is that the campuses have different missions, etc. Each campus plan will be more saliently connected with decision-making processes on that particular campus, e.g., budget allocations. At the same time, each campus is part of the whole that is the University of Minnesota system and so presumably there are values all the campuses share, and this needs to be articulated in the System-Wide Strategic Plan in such a way as to demonstrate how everything fits together. The System-Wide Strategic Plan may also include some recommendations about processes, e.g., streamlining business processes.

Is saving money the most important thing that could come out of the System-Wide Strategic Plan, asked Professor Campbell? No, said Provost Hanson, saving money is not the most important outcome. In her opinion, the most important outcome will be to demonstrate how the University of Minnesota serves the State of Minnesota. She added that if the University could use its resources more efficiently, naturally, that would be a good thing, but she does not believe this process is being driven by the idea the University could be budgetarily more efficient. There are a number of administrative services and aspects of the academic mission that are already connected across the campuses, but there may be ways to do some of these things better. The goal is to take advantage of the strengths the University has around the state in order to better serve the state.

Professor Ericksen said she agrees with the idea that the University can build on its strengths, but wonders if the System-Wide Strategic Plan will include any provisions for 'un-building' certain things, e.g., the University's hiring process given job markets differ across the state. Provost Hanson said that this is a really good point and that she will mention it to Vice Provost Ropers-Huilman, and suggested that Professor Ericksen also raise it at the Morris listening session. There is an interesting tension with respect to the Strategic Plan, said Provost Hanson, because it is not meant to be a unified plan. So, if there are elements of how things are done now where having them unified does not serve the campus or state then they need to be looked at. This point illustrates the fact that each campus has its distinctive mission, location, challenges and

opportunities, and there is nothing that should come out of this plan that attempts to artificially homogenize things.

Professor Konstan said throughout this process there might be a cultural issue that needs to be addressed in terms of how communication from and about the Twin Cities is relayed. For example, in *Brief*, he said he cannot recall seeing anything taking place on a system campus categorized as a University-wide event. There seems to be a cultural issue that if something is on the Twin Cities campus and it is thought to be important, it is classified as University-wide. The University is very unusual in that most institutions that have a separate flagship and a system have more separation. Most University messaging focuses on the Twin Cities campus and the system, and it is hard to change that. There should be some discipline around getting people to think about if matters are really system-wide or just a Twin Cities matter. There seems to be the notion that everything done on the Twin Cities campus is University-wide. Provost Hanson acknowledged Professor Konstan's point, but noted that naturally more things will be happening on the largest campus and many are meant to be of service to the other campuses. In response, Professor Konstan said people should be mindful of classifying something as systemwide if it is on the Twin Cities campus and only intended for the Twin Cities community because this sends the wrong message. Provost Hanson said she takes Professor Konstan's point but thinks that it is probably more of an "in principle" worry than an actual worry.

Professor Curley commented on the recent communication from President Kaler about the System-Wide Strategic Plan being launched. While he believes the message was framed correctly, it also makes clear that the University cannot pursue its strengths without pulling back somewhere else. The communication, said Provost Hanson, uses the standard business approach in terms of looking at the University's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The System-Wide Strategic Planning Committee cannot just be looking for things to add to what the University does, it also needs to think about things the University should no longer do.

Next, Provost Hanson spent a few minutes talking about the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost's [yearlong speaker series](#) that will be focused on human rights. The speaker series will conclude with Nicholas Kristoff, 2017 Ford Lecturer and *New York Times* columnist, on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 2:00 in Northrop Auditorium, but leading up to that will be the following speakers:

- Moustafa Bayoumi on Wednesday, November 16 at 2:00 in the Coffman Memorial Union Theater.
- Cristina Henriquez on Monday, February 6 at 2:00 in the Coffman Memorial Union Theater.
- Yaa Gyasi on Tuesday, March 7 at 2:00 in the Coffman Memorial Union Theater.

Hearing no questions and in light of time, Professor Campbell thanked Provost Hanson for taking time out of her busy schedule to attend today's meeting.

2. Approval of November 3, 2016 Senate docket: Professor Campbell noted that during the FCC meeting earlier this afternoon, the decision was made to have a discussion of the Shield Amendment at the November 3 Senate meeting in addition to the items outlined in the draft docket that members received along with the agenda. He then took a few minutes to explain

what the Shield Amendment is and also provided members with some background information about the amendment.

Professor Konstan made a motion to adopt the November 3 concurrent University and Faculty Senate agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Professor Okediji and unanimously approved by the committee.

3. Other business and adjournment: Professor Campbell asked SCC members if they had any other business they wanted to bring forward. Hearing done, he asked P&A Consultative Committee Chair Ety Deveau about what was going on with the Regents Scholarship that that committee had been working on last year. Ms. Deveau explained that this issue is back in committee (Benefits and Compensation) and on hold in light of the Maintenance of Status Quo Order by the Bureau of Mediation Services. Once this order has been lifted, this issue will be taken up again.

COGS President Jonathan Borowsky noted that COGS recently adopted a resolution on parental leave for graduate student employees, and asked for guidance on how to move it forward. Professor Campbell agreed to look into this and said he would follow-up Mr. Borowsky.

Professor Campbell asked Ray Muno, chair elect, Civil Service Consultative Committee (CSCC), if the CSCC had anything it would like to share, and Mr. Muno said no. Professor Campbell then asked Trish Palermo, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), if the SSCC had anything for the SCC, and she too said no. Hearing no further business, Professor Campbell adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate Office