

**Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA)  
April 4, 2018  
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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.*

[**In these minutes:** Update on University Food Service (Twin Cities); Discussion on “Swipe Out Hunger” Program; Duluth Student Affairs Update; Crookston Student Affairs Update; Policy Review: Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations]

**PRESENT:** Brianne Keeney (chair), Kendre Turonie, Thomas Bilder, Cody Mikl, Kari Volkmann-Carlsen, Nick Fuqua, Sunyoung Hong, Oliver Zheng, Renae Jackson, Rachel Kieffer, Runsheng Ma, Chelsea Montgomery, Spencer Marchand, Emma N. Olson, Agnes Omwoyo

**REGRETS:** David Blank, Fredrick Ogugua, Dhananjay Muddappa

**ABSENT:** Megan Sweet, Susan Mantell

**GUESTS:** Kay Akey, assistant director, M Dining; Jeff McKinley, director, M Dining; Amy Keran, contract administration, M Dining; Rebecca Leighton, food pantry coordinator, Boynton Health; Dave Golden, director of public health, Boynton Health

**OTHERS:** Vickie Courtney, Lisa Erwin, Lisa Samuelson, Julie Thornton

Chair Brianne Keeney welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

**1. Update on University Food Service (Twin Cities) -** Keeney introduced Kay Akey, assistant director, M Dining; Jeff McKinley, director, M Dining; and Amy Keran, staff, M Dining, to give an update on student dining concerns at the Twin Cities campus. McKinley began the presentation by saying that during fiscal year 2017, the primary concerns that students had about dining included student participation, dietary concerns, customer surveys and feedback, and food quality and labeling.

McKinley said that additional data collected in FY17 was provided to the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) in August. MSA then met with Aramark Corporate representatives and provided input for the FY18 survey. That survey focused on a “dining styles” survey and it was sent to all students, staff, and faculty on the Twin Cities campus during the fall semester of 2017. Some of the other major issues they are working on include offering more choices for those with dietary needs, such as kosher, halal, vegan, and vegetarian options.

McKinley continued that student participation is ongoing. The Student Advisory Council meets on the third Thursday of the month at Centennial Hall. James Farnsworth, student representative, MSA, attended the Aramark Annual Business Review in August. Aramark staff went through a

Jeffersonian Dinner in August and one of the things that came out of that dinner was the creation of a culinary internship called “Recipes for Change” which started in January 2018. It includes four students that meet ten hours per week and are working on several different skills such as learning how to cook with leftovers and preparing new recipes that will encourage sustainability.

In Coffman Union, the restaurant chain Baja recently went out of business and was replaced with the O-Mori Ramen bar. This selection was made through student surveys and feedback. O-Mori is now doing double the business that Baja was doing. This is a win-win because students get the types of food that they want and these businesses do well due to the higher demand. M Dining also modified its late night menus per student request to include more vegan and other options.

M Dining has partnered with Contract Administration of the University to add culinary and chef managers in all dining halls. This helps with the training of employees and better presentation of the food. They are also working with Contract Administration on the auditing of all food labels and making sure that they are correct and accurate. The University is constantly monitoring and addressing student comments and complaints submitted via email, social media, or the Student Advisory Council.

McKinley stated that they have also been working with the Office of Sustainability and have been continuing a much needed integration of work plans. There is an emphasis on supporting locally sourced produce as well as providing several awareness campaigns about the realities of food waste, such as the “Weigh the Waste” and “Lean Path” programs which focus on reducing waste from before and after food preparation. He also noted that all service products served at TCF Bank Stadium are now 100% certified as sustainable.

Finally, McKinley reported that Aramark has amended their corporate responsibility statement to address concerns raised by University of Minnesota students. They are also partnering with Boynton Health to offer the “Swipe Out Hunger” program where students can donate some of their ten guest meals on their dining plan.

Kari Volkmann-Carlson asked about waste management and if there is a composting program. Kay Akey said that yes, there is a compost program in place in the residence halls and Coffman. There are many bins across campus for composting, especially in larger buildings. They are working with their national brand partners to use more compostable containers.

Cody Mikl said that he is excited to see these changes being made. He asked M Dining to speak to the types of changes that have been implemented in their corporate responsibility statement. Amy Keran said that students thought that the Aramark corporation was acting irresponsibly. There was a misperception that Aramark was running prisons, but in reality they were only providing food to prisons. They are willing to share the new statement with the committee.

**2. Discussion on “Swipe Out Hunger” Program** - Keeney introduced Rebecca Leighton, food pantry coordinator, Boynton Health, and Dave Golden, director of public health, Boynton

Health. Keeney wanted the record to show that this program was the brainchild of David Begelman, a student on the Twin Cities campus.

Golden said that when they surveyed students in 2015, roughly 17% reported experiencing some sort of food insecurity. Food insecurity is a social determinant of health. Food stability is very important and a lack of stability can lead to mental health issues such as chronic stress. As those mental health stressors add up, the more one's overall health can deteriorate. People with food insecurity may result in higher rates of mental illness diagnosis or higher Average Childhood Experience (ACE) scores.

Golden continued that social determinants of health (SDOH) are all tied to the idea of chronic stress. SDOH include neighborhood and built environment, health and healthcare, social and community context, education, and economic stability. If you alleviate pressures in any area, it can have a positive impact on other areas. Education is very important. Those that earn a college degree tend to have better outcomes related to health. If one can be successful in managing stress in school, then that person can have the tools for managing stress after school.

Leighton stated that food insecurity is defined as the lack of reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. She said that Boynton recently conducted a college student health survey and added two questions: "Are students worried whether my food would run out before I got money to buy more?" and "Did the food that I bought run out and I didn't have money to get more?" 17% reported that they were sometimes or often worried about running out of food. Leighton believes that this is a conservative measurement because many students might be embarrassed and under report these incidents. Keeney asked about the population represented in the survey. Leighton responded that the survey was sent to the entire Twin Cities campus population. It should be noted that graduate students have higher rates of food insecurities. When the data is applied to all campuses, about 23% of the students have some form of food insecurity.

Leighton then went on to speak about the "Swipe Out Hunger" program. Students are able to donate meals from their meal plans so that students experiencing food insecurity can receive assistance right at the dining halls. The program is not ending food insecurity on campus but is used more as an emergency program. David Begelman built a relationship with M Dining to figure out the method by which students could donate up to ten of their guest meals that often went unused. Begelman collected about 2500 meals to distribute and M Dining loaded the meals on to meal cards with up to five meals per card. Leighton said that an evaluation of the program will be happening later this month. Mikl asked how students are able to donate their meals. Leighton said that there was one donation period last semester where Begelman would sit at different dining halls throughout the day. There is no ongoing donation right now.

Volkman-Carlson asked why Comstock and Middlebrook Halls were not included in the program. Leighton said that it was meant to discourage tailgating into those halls. The dining halls in those buildings are connected to the housing portions and they did not want to open up the possibility for trespassing. However, if you live in either of those buildings, the meal cards will work there. Kendre Turonie asked if there is any data about the students using the program

and where they live. Leighton said that they do not currently have that data but they could include a question like that in their upcoming survey.

Nick Fuqua liked that the cards were discreet and therefore not alienating to those using them. It is like any other transaction so no one knows when a student is using the program. Turonie asked if there are any referrals to the program. Leighton said not yet but they are looking into that for the future. Turonie said that academic advisors would be a good referral source. Mikl asked how many cards have been distributed. Leighton said they have distributed 200 cards and about 300 more cards are going out today. Amy Keran said that this is a national program with many colleges and campuses doing it in a variety of ways. However, this is the first Aramark account to do this.

**3. Duluth Student Affairs Update** - Keeney introduced Lisa Erwin, vice chancellor, University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Student Life, to give an overview and update on student affairs activities at UMD. Erwin said that her office has been focused on the following items:

- Mental health has been a major topic on campus. UMD requested funding to hire two counselors to help address mental health on campus and were able to make those hires. Erwin expressed appreciation for the support of the SCSA for the requested positions. One person has already started and a second person will be coming on in August 2018. Both counselors represent diverse populations. While UMD has never had a waiting list for mental health services, there is sometimes a lag in time for a student getting an appointment of about a week. However, that timing has improved and they now also have two times per day open for an emergency session. They also added additional “Let’s Talk” sessions for mental health counseling. UMD has also been participating in the new system wide mental health network and those meetings have been very productive.
- Food insecurity has also been an issue at UMD. She said that almost 15% of students experience food insecurity, and nearly 25% of students worry about their food running out before having the ability to buy more. They have had their “Champ’s Cupboard” program running for the past five years which was modeled after a program from Lake Superior College. The majority of food or money donations come from faculty and staff. The program provides food for students experiencing food insecurity. UMD’s Chancellor Black is a champion of the program and makes several pitches every year for more donations. UMD’s “University for Seniors” program is also wildly supportive of Champ’s Cupboard. The program also collects other products like diapers and toiletries as well. About 200 students take advantage of those services each year. Academic advisors are great allies for this program and make many referrals. The program is very discreet and Student Life simply verifies that those using the system are in fact UMD students. UMD is also looking to add a swipe program similar to the Twin Cities’ “Swipe Out Hunger” program and will hopefully have something implemented in the fall.
- “Champ’s Closet” is a program that collects professional clothing for students to wear for interviews or other professional meetings. They are partnering with several local stores that donate clothing to the program.

- A recent survey showed that a few UMD students experience homelessness and the campus wants to work more towards addressing that issue. Part of that issue is the limitation of the housing market around campus.
- The prevention of sexual assault is a continuing goal. UMD's chancellor has begun a local initiative in support of the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Assault. UMD will be holding "Consent Week" which focuses on messaging around obtaining affirmative consent for sexual activities. They are also working on revamping an existing sexual assault prevention committee on campus. That committee is working on enhancing student engagement and public awareness. UMD is complying with the mandatory sexual misconduct prevention training happening across the University system. Erwin stated that reports of sexual misconduct are up in recent months but she thinks that is because the stigma of reporting is fading and more people are being encouraged to report these types of crimes.
- UMD has a growing enrollment and housing is an area of concern. UMD's goal is to add about 500 new beds to their residence halls. The Duluth housing market can be very expensive. They have a plan to build a brand new 250 bed residence hall. In addition, when adding beds, the campus also needs to look at the capacity for dining as well, as the two issues go hand in hand.
- Student legal services continues to be a challenge. UMD does not have those types of services like on the Twin Cities campus. Her office is working with the student body president to figure out what students need and to come up with a proposal for services. One possible solution would be to have some part-time staff on campus for a few hours each month.

Keeney asked if there is timeline for the new residence hall. Erwin said they would love to have it finished by 2020 but that may be ambitious. They want to make sure that UMD gets the appropriate amount of input from all stakeholders to maximize its usefulness to the students. Keeney asked how much reports of sexual misconduct have increased on campus. Erwin said that they have probably doubled since 2012. This includes assaults that occur outside of the campus community, but it occurs to a student.

**4. Crookston Student Affairs Update** - Keeney introduced Lisa Samuelson, interim associate vice chancellor, University of Minnesota Crookston (UMC) Student Affairs. Samuelson said she is in the fifth month of serving in this position. She has held many titles at UMC including the director of student activities, director of the Student Center, student conduct coordinator, and the Title IX investigator for UMC. Many individuals on her staff "wear a lot of hats." She then gave an overview of UMC's Office for Student Affairs and highlighted the following topics:

- UMC's Office for Student Affairs includes the following departments:
  - Career Development
  - Counseling Services
  - Disability Resource Center
  - Diversity and Multicultural Programs
  - Financial Aid and Scholarships
  - Orientation and Community Engagement

- Post Office
- Residential Life/Security Services
- Student Activities/Student Center
- Student Affairs/Title IX
- Student Health
- Wellness and Recreation
- Sodexo Dining Services
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- These student affairs departments often have a very lean staff and staffing changes can impact a department very hard. Recent staffing changes have included the financial aid director, assistant director of community engagement, associate vice chancellor of student affairs/Title IX coordinator, assistant director of Wellness Center, coordinator of Student and Family Experience, and the general manager of Sodexo. Samuelson stated that collaboration with other system campuses has been really great for individuals to understand the roles and duties of these positions.
- Strategic planning has been an important issue. As part of the overall University-wide strategic planning, Crookston has been developing their portion of the plan known as “Crookston Leads.” Major topics in the strategic plan include strategic enrollment management, rural economic development, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and employee engagement.
- The Office for Student Affairs is the lead for the many activities on campus.
  - Some “tried and true” traditions include:
    - Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
    - Meet Crookston Through Service
    - Blood Drive
    - 21 Days of Success
    - Job Fairs
    - Music on Mondays and What’s on Wednesdays
    - Healing Touch Spa/Pet-Away Stress
    - Final Friday Funday
    - Grad Fest
  - Some new activities for 2017-18 include:
    - Rec Fest
    - Part-time Job Fair
    - So Minnesota
    - Crookston Dine Around Town
    - Happy Hour
    - Host Family Program
- Some additional highlights include a student affairs retreat, team building events, and the creation of an equitable and professional development process. They had not had a retreat in about nine years and it was a great way to build a more effective student affairs team, to begin the process of strategically aligning student affairs with UMC’s mission, vision, and values for learning outcomes, and develop unit specific smart goals that go along with the current strategic planning initiatives.

**5. Policy Review: Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations (Action)** - Keeney said that after the March meeting of SCSA, Sharon Dzik, director, Office of Community Standards, incorporated the committee's suggestions into the updated policy Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations. The language can be found at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_H1HLzsVcmAVTZZZF9odUFzTVIHMmtYaUUwYkxvb1I0dVpz/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_H1HLzsVcmAVTZZZF9odUFzTVIHMmtYaUUwYkxvb1I0dVpz/view?usp=sharing)

Keeney then opened the floor to discussion of the policy. Mikl said that he was out of town for the last meeting and asked for a quick description of what changes were made. Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office, stated that the changes were mostly conforming changes to align language with other University policies and procedures as well as updating the information of some of the policy's contacts.

Volkman-Carlson moved that the committee endorse the language of the revised policy: Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations. The motion was seconded by Rachel Kieffer. **The motion was unanimously approved by the committee.**

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office