

**Social Concerns Committee**  
**September 24, 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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents.*

[**In these minutes:** Welcome and Introductions; Committee Orientation; Chair's Updates; Framework for Issues; Outreach and Engagement Plan; New Business]

**PRESENT:** Ingrid Nuttall (chair), Abigail Dayton, Zachary Fischer, Zan Gao, Hyunjoo Im, Tristan Kick, Gabriella Kraus, Mary Kurth, William Larson, James Mason, Molly Schwartz, Sarah Sexton, Nicole Smiley, Jim Stemper, Megan Sweet, Boris Volkov

**REGRETS:** Becca Gercken, Linda Frizzell, Aseem Kaul, Gabriella Kraus, Leah Peterson, Melissa Sellew

**ABSENT:** James Mason, Aleksander Holleran, Alex LaValley

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Ingrid Nuttall called the meeting to order and welcomed members. She then called for a round of introductions.

**2. Committee Orientation**

Amber Bathke, senate associate, University Senate Office, provided an [overview of University Senate governance and orientation](#) to committee work.

**3. Chair's Updates**

Next, Nuttall provided the following updates to the committee:

- President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History: Nuttall directed members to [President Eric Kaler's email of August 13, 2018](#). In this email, Kaler said that one of his top priorities before he steps down as president in July 2019 will be advancing the work on building naming and institutional history. Nuttall informed members that the [report](#) of the President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History had been published. Highlights of the report include guiding principles on naming and unaming of University buildings; how to ensure a proactive, engaged, mindful response to the issues raised in the *A Campus Divided* exhibit; and a recommendation to form a separate, permanent University history committee charged with reviewing namings and unnamings. Nuttall added that she had suggested that Social Concerns be represented on this committee.

- Nuttall then referenced Kaler's [email of September 18, 2018](#) regarding next steps in child care planning on the Twin Cities. Members felt that the committee should remain involved in the larger conversation around child care across the system.

#### **4. Framework for Issues**

Nuttall then initiated a discussion on the proposed [framework](#) around how the committee decides which issues to focus on. She explained that based on discussions at the end of last academic year, a small group of volunteers met to come up with this proposed framework. The proposed framework was as follows:

- Does the issue reflect a broader, social concern of current importance?
- Do we have data (quantitative or qualitative) that informs us of the scope of the impact?
- Does the issue affect all campuses/campus communities?
- Is the Social Concerns Committee the right group to address the issue?
  - If so, should we involve other committee partners?
  - Do we have a relevant administrator we should partner with?
  - Have we/are we able to engage the appropriate stakeholders in the issue and the work of the committee?
- Can the Social Concerns Committee effect change with the tools we have at our disposal?
  - Campus forum
  - Resolution
  - Letter
  - Statement
  - Policy recommendation

Members made several suggestions on the framework, which Nuttall agreed to incorporate.

#### **5. Outreach and Engagement Plan**

Members discussed how best to reach out to the community to ensure that the committee is apprised of issues and is working on topics that are important to members of the community. The need to be sure to engage system campuses, was stressed, as was the need to get the word out about the committee and what it is working on.

#### **6. Other business**

Nuttall made the following announcements:

- She will be visiting two system campuses this year, and will look to members to help plan her agenda, in terms of who she should meet with during her visits.
- She and Professor Keisha Varma, chair, Equity, Access, and Diversity Committee, would meet with Michael Goh, vice president, Equity and Diversity, in a couple of weeks.

Hearing no further business, Nuttall adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke  
University Senate Office