

**Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)**  
**September 11, 2020**  
**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:** SSCC Updates; Approval of Amendments to the Student Senate Handbook; Agenda Planning for Student Senate Retreat and Special Student Senate Meeting - Saturday, September 19, 2020; Review the Results of the Student Survey on Returning to Campus]

**PRESENT:** Briggs Tople (chair), Gunnar Frahm (vice chair), Sydney Bauer (ranking student senator), Jack Flom, Annie Counihan, Josh Lesser, Manpreet Singh

**REGRETS:** None

**ABSENT:** Jasmine Pryor, Bhavana Goparaju

**GUESTS:** None

**OTHERS:** Megan Sweet

Chair Briggs Tople welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves. Tople then recognized the fact that the date was September 11th and the committee observed a moment of silence in remembrance for those lives lost on this date in 2001.

**1. SSCC Updates** - Tople opened the floor to SSCC members for updates from their respective campus student associations or constituencies and the responses were as follows:

- Annie Counihan, SSCC representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), shared that the Duluth campus recently had their move-in day which was different due to the pandemic. She stated that UMDSA will have some priorities this year around diversity and inclusion as well as addressing how UMD will handle accusations of sexual misconduct due to the new Title IX regulations.
- Jack Flom, SSCC representative, Minnesota Student Association (MSA) stated that the group held a retreat on Sunday where MSA passed a position statement calling for the University to move to completely online instruction and close all resident halls with the exception of students who require a safer space to live.
- Manpreet Singh, SSCC representative, Crookston Student Association (CSA), said that Crookston students moved in on time and the administration has asked for a voluntary curfew to be in effect to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Josh Lesser, SSCC representative, Professional Student Government (PSG), said that PSG's executive cabinet met for the first time recently to plan for fall semester, including planning to host social events and game nights. Additionally, PSG is looking to shift many of its funds so they are available to students directly dealing with issues related to

COVID-19 or to international students. Lesser added that PSG is working with the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) on two task forces that are looking to address public safety and institutional racism. Lesser also indicated that this may be his final meeting as the representative to the SSCC as he may become the new vice president of PSG at an upcoming congressional meeting.

**2. Approval of Amendments to the Student Senate Handbook** - Vice chair Gunnar Frahm provided a finalized version of the updated [Student Senate Handbook](#). He stated that after the August 21, 2020, meeting of the SSCC, he received no further comments or edits and said that this version is up to date. He further clarified that he is prepared to make further changes as needed if the Student Senate Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules are amended this academic year. Frahm moved that the Student Senate Handbook be approved. The motion was seconded by Flom and unanimously approved.

**3. Agenda Planning for Student Senate Retreat and Special Student Senate Meeting - Saturday, September 19, 2020** - Tople provided an outline of the finalized agenda for the Student Senate retreat which will occur on Saturday, September 19, 2020. Tople asked SSCC members to contribute in two ways. First, he asked that each SSCC member be prepared to provide an overview of their campus' student association and the advocacy topics or issues that they are planning to address this year. Secondly, he asked that each SSCC member volunteer to facilitate a small group discussion around the top issue items that were identified in the Student Senate retreat survey. The issues and the SSCC members assigned to lead the discussions were as follows:

- Campus Public Safety and Police Reform - Jack Flom and Manpreet Singh
- Mental Health - Sydney Bauer
- Title IX Changes and Sexual Misconduct - Annie Counihan
- University Response to COVID-19 - Briggs Tople
- Tuition, Finances, and Textbook Affordability - Erika Swant and Bhavana Goparaju
- Diversity and Inclusion - Gunnar Frahm
- Systemwide Collaboration - Ben Romanowski (Rochester Student Body President)
- Sustainability - Jasmine Pryor

Tople then stated that during the retreat, the Student Senate would hold a special meeting of the body in order to accomplish three goals: appoint new student senators, elect one system campus senator to the Student Committee on Committees, and approve proposed amendments to the Student Senate Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules. Tople indicated that all suggestions that were made by student senators were incorporated into the three amendments and they will be voted on one by one. Sydney Bauer moved that the docket for the September 19, 2020, special meeting of the Student Senate be approved. The motion was seconded by Singh and unanimously approved.

**4. Review the Results of the Student Survey on Returning to Campus** - Frahm provided an overview of the results of the recently completed Student Senate Survey that was sent to all students regarding the University's plans to return to campus for the fall semester. He stated that the survey received 15,868 responses, 75% of which came from the Twin Cities campus and two

thirds of which were from undergraduate students overall. Frahm then highlighted some of the key results of the survey, which included the following:

- 57.92% of all student respondents agree to some extent that the University should move to a fully online modality of teaching while 33.12% disagree to some extent. The remaining 9.05% neither agree nor disagree.
- 49.97% of all student respondents agree to some extent that residence halls have the potential for a breakout of COVID-19 to occur while 30.43% disagree to some extent. The remaining 19.59% neither agree nor disagree.
- 46.57% of all student respondents state they are to some extent likely to leave campus for one night or longer prior to Thanksgiving break while 31.94% state they are to some extent unlikely. 13.43% stated they are neither likely or unlikely to leave campus and 8.07% chose not to answer.
- If classes were moved fully online, the following percentages of students had concerns regarding access to:
  - Food - 9.94%
  - Housing - 11.1%
  - Mental Health Services - 28.53%

Tople indicated that he is willing to share this information with any group or office that would like to access it. Megan Sweet asked if x500 authentication was used for those taking the survey. Frahm answered that it was not due to the fact that they wanted to keep the results as anonymous as possible so students would be more inclined to answer honestly. Sweet acknowledged that there was a high response rate and wanted to note that this could have allowed for more responses.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office