

Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA)
March 17, 2021
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: University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) - Student Affairs and Student Government Update; Consultation on YOU@UMN Wellbeing Portal for Students; Consultation on Resolution on Student Protesting]

PRESENT: Cody Mikl (chair), David Blank, Nathaniel Mills, Marie Monter, Madeline Squier, Sarah Beraki, Justin Goetz, Brandon King, Brianna Murano, Gabrielle Raymond, Sam Rosemark, Niko Sexton, Lauren Tehan, Vue Vang, Laura Knudson, Kendre Turonie

REGRETS: Adrienne Conley, Kaicheng Shi

ABSENT: Mattea Allert, Rose Vukovic

GUESTS: Sandra Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs, UMM; Sam Rosemark, student body president, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA); Lisa Lemler, associate director for wellness, University Recreation and Wellness; Annie Counihan, SSCC representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA)

OTHERS: Lisa Erwin, Megan Sweet

Chair Cody Mikl welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

1. University of Minnesota Morris (UMM) - Student Affairs and Student Government Update - Mikl introduced Sandra Olson-Loy, vice chancellor for student affairs, UMM, and Sam Rosemark, student body president, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), to provide an update on student affairs and student governance at the Morris campus. Olson-Loy and Rosemark co-presented a [slide deck](#) and highlights were as follows:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, about 75% of students attended in-person classes this year.
- MCSA conducted a student survey in the spring and fall of 2020 which gauged a number of issues, including dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, police and public safety issues, and student mental health and wellbeing.
- Students have indicated that the need for student counseling is a top priority and UMM has implemented multiple programs to help mitigate student mental health problems, including the program “Morris Let’s Thrive.”
- MCSA have been busy engaging in anti-racism work and attempting to apply it to all aspects of their advocacy.
- The Morris campus is now carbon-neutral in electricity.

Brandon King commented that Student Counseling at the Morris campus has done an amazing job in assisting students this past year. Olson-Loy added her compliments to the System-wide Student Mental Health Learning and Collaboration Network which have worked collaboratively to address this issue since 2018. Lisa Erwin added that it is the best system effort in counseling that she has seen in her time.

2. Consultation on [YOU@UMN Wellbeing Portal for Students](#) - Mikl introduced Lisa Lemler, associate director for wellness, University Recreation and Wellness, to provide information regarding a new student wellness portal called YOU@UMN. Lemler presented a [slide deck](#) and [handout](#) to the committee and highlights were as follows:

- YOU@UMN is intended to be a one stop, customizable platform for students to access and utilize resources, programs, and services related to student wellbeing.
- At this time, the platform is in its pilot phase where select students have been asked to test the system. The Office for Student Affairs (OSA) hopes to have a soft launch of the program in the late spring semester with a full launch over the summer to be ready for the fall 2021 semester.
- This platform is already being utilized by other institutions, such as Colorado State. Students can access the program at you.umn.edu. It utilizes the University's x500 single sign-in process.
- OSA intends to consult with as many student groups as possible in order to provide the resources that students are looking for the most.

Annie Counihan commented that she recently signed up for YOU@UMN and it would be great to integrate disability resources, and even accommodation letters, into this platform. Lemler appreciated the comment and said that she would follow up with Counihan on this idea. Mikl agreed that academic success can lead to the holistic wellbeing of a student. Rosemark also appreciated that this platform was aimed at students' overall wellness and asked whether this would provide specific resources for system campuses. Lemler replied that the technology has the ability to map a student's location and provide the appropriate University resources as needed. King agreed that this will be helpful and suggested getting faculty and staff involved to make sure that they were aware of this platform as well.

Nate Mills asked if the platform would have content specifically aimed at graduate students. Lemler commented that the program was meant to address the needs of all students on campus and the more engagement a student has with the content, the more customized and catered the content would become. Abbie Amundsen suggested adding a "trending" section so students can see what other students are most taking advantage of. She also indicated that providing student education for money management solutions would be highly valuable.

3. Consultation on [Resolution on Student Protesting](#) - Mikl introduced Annie Counihan, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), who presented a proposed resolution on student protesting. Counihan indicated that the resolution was initially drafted in response to students who were arrested while protesting on highway I-94 after the November 2020 elections. She indicated that

the purpose of the resolution was to ensure that students are not unfairly punished by the University, even if they are arrested for practicing their first amendment rights.

Mikl asked if Counihan had a definition between protesting and the possible commitment of a crime. Counihan opined that she does not feel it is the University's place to define protest as it is defined under law.

Laura Knudson provided some comments and background on the issue, stating that no police reports have been provided to the University's Office for Community Standards (OCS), so there has been no disciplinary action taken by the University towards students for any incident that occurred on I-94. While her office is aware that some students were arrested and students are utilizing the services of Student Legal Services (SLS) for outcomes related to that arrest, the University does not typically handle incidents regarding students that happen off campus, except when they are considered a substantial interest to the University, such as incidents of sexual assault. She also informed the committee that SLS is a program run solely from Twin Cities student fees and would not be typically available as a resource to students on other campuses. Counihan thanked Knudson for the information and stated that while there may not currently be cases pending against students, she felt it important to set a precedent about future protesting and its educational benefit. She indicated that she would work and consult with any appropriate stakeholder as recommended by this committee.

Mills asked if the intent was for the University to expunge University-only cases in protesting or all cases of protesting involving University students. Counihan clarified that if a student is potentially charged in criminal court with disorderly conduct for protesting, they should not also be accused of violating the Student Conduct Code.

Megan Sweet suggested that Counihan visit with multiple stakeholders, including the senior student affairs officers on each of the campuses in order to address the specific nuances facing each campus. She also recommended consulting with other committees of the University Senate. King agreed with Sweet's approach on system consultation.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office