

Minutes*

Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Wednesday, September 3, 2003
1:00 – 3:00
238A Morrill Hall

Present: Emily Hoover (chair), Wilbert Ahern, Victor Bloomfield, Dale Branton, Gretchen Haas, Frank Kulacki, Marsha Odom, Martin Sampson, Karen Seashore, Mary Ellen Shaw, Mary Sue Simmons, Craig Swan, Douglas Wangensteen, Joel Weinsheimer

Absent: Vernon Cardwell, Shawn Curley, Geoffrey Meisner

Guests: none

[In these minutes: (1) welcome and introductions; (2) review of the committee charge; (3) draft letter of charge to the ad hoc committee on the summer session; (4) issues pending]

1. Welcome and Introductions

Professor Hoover convened the meeting at 1:00 and called for a round of introductions. She then briefly reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

2. Review of the Committee Charge

Professor Hoover reported that Professor Martin, chair of the Senate Consultative Committee, has asked all Senate and Assembly committees to review their charges as established in the bylaws. Inasmuch as a major reorganization of the Senate and Assembly is being considered, it seemed to be an appropriate time for each committee to review its duties.

The Committee agreed to recommend a number of changes to its charge.

3. Draft Charge Letter, Summer Semester Committee

Professor Hoover next asked Committee members to review the draft charge letter to a proposed ad hoc committee that would explore the possibility of establishing a third, regular semester. (The draft letter is appended to these minutes.) The Committee will need to identify two people to serve on the ad hoc committee. Several comments were made:

-- A three-semester calendar is not a Twin Cities-only issue; it is like the change to semesters, which would need to be made on all the campuses. (The draft charge letter presumes the change would be on the Twin Cities campus.)

* These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

- Students now cannot, for the most part, rely on summer offerings to complete their degree programs because there are not sufficient required courses. A regular third semester, however, might permit students to finish in three years.
- The ad hoc committee will need data on academic programs and physical plant, as well as financial data.

Professors Seashore and Weinsheimer volunteered to serve as the Committee's representatives on the ad hoc committee.

4. Issues Pending Before the Committee

The Committee turned next to the list of issues pending before it. Committee members made a variety of comments on the issues; the final list will appear in the minutes in the future.

Professor Hoover adjourned the meeting at 2:45.

-- Gary Engstrand

University of Minnesota