

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001

[In these minutes: Issues for the 2001-2002 Academic Year, Retention and Graduation Rates, Restructuring of the Offices of Multi-Cultural and Student Affairs, Update on Coffman Union, Other Issues for Consideration, Future Agenda Items, Committee Vacancies].

[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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration or the Board of Regents].

PRESENT: Jason Stingl (Chair), Yasemin Kaygisiz, Dave Gibson, Gerald Rinehart, Cheryl Meyers, Janet Schottel, Robert Jones, Tina Falkner, Brian Wiedenmeier, David Lelander

ABSENT: Terry Hietpas, Sara Nagel, Edward Ehlinger, Brittany McCarthy Barnes

REGRETS: Deb Cran

OTHERS: Mary Koskan, Janet Crittenden

1. Chair Jason Stingl called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.
2. The first item of business was to discuss issues the Committee may want to consider during the upcoming academic year. Chair Stingl mentioned the idea of surveying students using the One-Stop Website in an effort to determine where there are gaps in services and programs. Vice President Robert Jones, of the Office of the VP for Campus Life, indicated that his office conducts a very comprehensive Student Satisfaction Survey, which the Committee may want to review in order to narrow their focus. It was mentioned that Peter Zetterberg (Director, Institutional Research and Reporting) and Vice Provost Craig Swan are working on conducting monthly student satisfaction surveys on a variety of topics. Committee members voiced their concerns about 'surveying students to death'. The Committee was also informed that Vice Provost Swan is formulating a One-Stop Student Advisory Committee, which will be yet another avenue to collect student feedback. It was suggested that Chair Stingl delegate or appoint someone from the Student Affairs Committee to sit on the One-Stop Advisory Committee. Finally, the Committee unanimously agreed that receiving a copy of the Student Satisfaction Survey would help them identify where there are gaps in services and programs for students.

3. **RETENTION & GRADUATION RATES:** Professor Rinehart presented information and recommendations concerning the University of Minnesota's poor performance as it relates to retention and graduation rates. General recommendations noted by Professor Rinehart that could possibly improve the University's performance include:
- ❖ Providing students with more academic support in terms of advising and faculty involvement in their education.
 - ❖ Furnish students with more information about how to get a degree and what degrees are available.
 - ❖ Inform students on the economic and educational value of completing a degree in a relatively short period of time.
 - ❖ Provide more support for students at risk.

More specifically the University is considering:

- ❖ Allowing freshmen to register for the full-year
- ❖ E-mailing reminders to students about registration
- ❖ Providing mid-term grade reports to freshmen
- ❖ Requiring faculty involvement in a student's decision to drop a class after the second week.

An engaging discussion about the importance of student involvement and improving student services followed Professor Rinehart's presentation. Professor Rinehart encouraged Committee members to familiarize themselves with the issue. The Retention & Graduation Report can be found at the following URL: <http://www.evpp.umn.edu/evpp/graduate>

4. **RESTRUCTURING OF THE OFFICE OF MULTI-CULTURAL AND STUDENT AFFAIRS:** Vice President Jones distributed a draft of an organizational chart for the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life, effective July 15, 2001. Vice President Jones went on to explain his position as the Chief Student Affairs and Multi-Cultural Affairs Officer. He pointed out that the offices for Multi-Cultural and Student Affairs fall under the rubric of the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life. Vice President Jones announced that the University is in the process of conducting a search to replace Rusty Barcelo, the former Vice President for Multi-Cultural Affairs.
5. **COFFMAN UNION RENOVATION UPDATE:** Vice President Jones updated the Committee on the Coffman Union renovation project. The plan is to have a phased occupation of the building, starting with the Bookstore moving in, by the end of July or the first of August 2002. Assuming the project stays on schedule, Coffman Union should be completed by the end of Fall Semester 2002. Members were encouraged to view the schematic drawings of the renovated Coffman Union at www.coffman.umn.edu Food service negotiations are being conducted and an announcement will be made about vendors once agreements have been reached.

Problems that have occurred since construction started in January 2001 include contaminated soil being found in the Plaza area and an issue involving the 400-seat theater. Due to some structural limitations involving part of the old theater the project is currently faced with a \$0 to \$700,000 expense to correct the problem. The University is trying various kinds of strategies to resolve this issue either at no cost or to minimize this cost.

6. OTHER POSSIBLE ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

- ❖ Use of credit cards to pay for tuition: The committee unanimously voted to investigate the use of credit cards as a method of payment for tuition.
- ❖ Lighting: Committee members would like someone from Security to speak to them about the status of campus lighting, and will then decide if this is still an issue they want to pursue.
- ❖ Student employee salaries and job opportunities.
- ❖ The Daily's employment policies.
- ❖ Creating an "Off Campus Housing Guide"

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- ❖ Review the Student Satisfaction Survey results.
- ❖ The establishment of Subcommittees to deal with topic-specific issues.

8. COMMITTEE VACANCIES: One student vacancy and one faculty position remain open on the Committee. Committee members were encouraged to forward the names of individuals who might be interested in serving. Recommendations will be forwarded to the Student Committee on Committees and the Faculty Committee on Committees.

With no further business, Chair Stingl thanked all present for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate