

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2001

[In these minutes: Subcommittees Update, Off-Campus Housing Issues & Landlord Library Initiative Update, Student Surveys Discussion]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities 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, Cheryl Meyers, Dave Gibson, David Lenander, Janet Schottel, Gerald Rinehart

REGRETS: Brian Wiedenmeier, Brittny Barnes McCarthy

ABSENT: Terry Hietpas, Robert Jones, Sara Nagel, Bao Ong

OTHERS: Tina Falkner

D). SUBCOMMITTEES UPDATE:

- Chair Stingl announced that because the Committee is charged to focus on system-wide issues, the lighting issue raised by Student Affairs last year would be forwarded to the SCFP Subcommittee on Twin Cities Facilities and Support Services (STCFSS).
- The formation of a Survey Subcommittee has been postponed. To avoid duplication of efforts, Chair Stingl and Committee member, Gerald Rinehart, will continue to report back to the Committee on the progress of the Web Survey Subcommittee of the Council of Undergraduate Deans.
- An overview of the role of the Student Services Fee Subcommittee was presented to the Committee. The Student Services Fee Subcommittee's function is to receive and review annual reports from the Student Services Fee Committees on each of the coordinate campuses as well as address issues and policy changes forwarded by one or more of the Student Services Fee Committees. Professors Schottel and Kaygisiz volunteered to serve on this Subcommittee.

II). Deb Marsh, Program Director of Housing and Residential Life located on the ground floor of Comstock Hall, presented some information to the Committee on off-campus housing issues, specifically the Landlord Library initiative. Ms. Marsh referenced the current University's Off-Campus Housing web site:

<http://www1.umn.edu/housing/offcampus.htm> as a resource for off-campus property vacancies.

On-going discussions continue between the University's Office of the General Counsel and Housing and Residential Life regarding liability implications of publishing a Landlord Library similar to that produced by Ohio State. It is important to keep in mind that the Ohio State Landlord Library was primarily the work of the Undergraduate Student Government with grant money from the Ohio State Housing Office versus an official Ohio State University publication. This publication took approximately three years to complete. Ms. Marsh indicated that both the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG) and Minnesota Students Association's (MSA) Affordable Housing Task Force have expressed an interest in producing a similar resource guide. Chair Stingl indicated that MSA has decided to definitively go ahead with this project. The Committee unanimously agreed to draft a resolution endorsing MSA's interest in publishing a document similar to the Ohio State Landlord Library. The resolution will be acted upon at the next meeting.

III). STUDENT SURVEYS: Results of the 2001 Student Interests Survey conducted by the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life and a corresponding Executive Summary were distributed to Committee Members for review and discussion. Chair Stingl led a brainstorming session about survey topics. It was mentioned that Committee member Gerald Rinehart serves on the Web Survey Subcommittee of the Council of Undergraduate Deans. This Subcommittee was formed because of the desire to move surveys to web-based applications. As it stands, no one on campus is aware of who is asking what questions of what populations, and, as a result, this again raises the whole concern about students being over-surveyed. To date, the Web Survey Subcommittee has put out a call for information about surveys, or, in other words, a 'survey of the surveys'. As this information is collected the surveys are being put into one of two categories: surveys that are centrally administered and surveys that the individual colleges conduct. Once all the data is collected this Subcommittee will prioritize survey topics. Although no conclusion was reached, members discussed the possibility of creating a database that would serve as a clearinghouse for units that want to conduct a survey. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that Student Affairs Committee survey efforts have a student services focus. Additionally, members expressed an interest in the Committee either single-handedly or working collaboratively with the Office of the Vice President for Campus Life to examine the junior year experience. After the Committee has an opportunity to thoroughly review the 2001 Student Interests Survey, members should e-mail any questions they might have to Chair Stingl. After meeting with Vice President Jones the Committee will decide if the junior year experience is something they are interested in pursuing. The next meeting of the Student Affairs Committee is scheduled for November 7, 2001 from 2:30-4:00 in room 300 Morrill Hall.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate