

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 19, 1997

238 Morrill Hall (RR)

3:00 PM

In these minutes:

Career Services Task Force, First Year Experience, Alcohol Abuse, ARAMARK, Policy & Procedures Manual, Transportation/Bus Service, and Updates from OSDA, MSA, and GAPSA

MINUTES

Present: Kathleen Peterson (Chair), Jane Canney, Ted Labuza, John Romano, Diane Wartchow, Sabeen Altaf, Jesse Berglund, Susan Daniels, Katie Dudley, Thomas Haakenson, Brittany Leigh, Jeffrey Olson, Laura Taken, Britta Ylikopsa, Edward Ehlinger, Phil Morgan, June Nobbe

Regrets: Laura Langer, Maren Mahowald,

Absent: Patrick Kroll

Guests: Esther Peralez, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Student Development and Athletics; Laura Micheline, MSA Cabinet Member for Commuter Issues; Robert Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation; Roger Huss, Assistant Director of Transportation

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

The Student Affairs Committee met at 3:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 1997 in 238 Morrill Hall (Regents Room) on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS.

Because some members were unable to attend last month's meeting, Kathie Peterson, Chair, introduced herself again and welcomed everyone to the University Senate Student Affairs Committee; she asked those present to introduce him/herself and identify his/her major and department affiliations. A membership list including addresses, phone numbers, faxes, and e-mail addresses was distributed to the Student Affairs Committee; corrections to the list can be sent to Kate Stuckert who will update as necessary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Minor changes were recommended for the meeting minutes, including name spelling and adding a "regrets" section in addition to "absent" for the membership attendance at all future meetings. The minutes from the October 22, 1997 meeting were approved as written.

OFFICE OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & ATHLETICS (OSDA).

Career Services Task Force.

A copy of the final report prepared by the Career Services Task Force was provided to committee members prior to, and at the meeting. Jane Canney, Office of Student Development and Athletics, reported that Joel Bergstrum, ex-committee Chair, passed a resolution asking for a study of career services across the university. She named the members of the task force, and mentioned that the task force made sure to have focus groups that involved students in the process. The task force made a number of recommendations, including: a) a pilot in CLA to couple career development with academic advising (she added that Dean Rosenstone fully supports this pilot); b) address the issues of employer accessibility to U of M students; c) review employer relations with the university; d) develop strategies for regular communications with the parents; e) increase public relations and outreach efforts by working closely with the World Wide Web development team; and f) develop a set of professional standards and a career employment officers group. She added that the task force met with Executive VP and Provost Bob Bruininks to discuss the report. He was very pleased to receive it, and will work on the next step in this process with the new administration.

Kathie Peterson, Chair, noted that the directors of the college career placement and services offices meet on a regular basis and have begun work on implementing the recommendations of the task force. She added that the university has an informal group called the Advising Network, consisting of anyone who is interested in academic advising issues, which spans all colleges on the twin cities campus. This network is undertaking a fairly major initiative in January to consider ways to more closely link academic and career advising.

Jane Canney added that although the task force focused only on undergraduate student needs, it seems inevitable that beginning at the undergraduate level will prompt working at the graduate and professional school level. Concern was noted about the effect of the change to the semester system on these programs at the university. Ms. Canney will keep the committee updated on the progress of the task force recommendations.

Alcohol Abuse.

It was reported that there have been many problems with alcohol abuse within universities across the country, particularly this year. Jane Canney stated that a group of people were assembled, including the University Action Response Team, to address this issue at the University of Minnesota. One area of change has been placing professional people into residence halls as area coordinators to become more involved with what's happening in the residence halls. The university is also looking more closely at campus initiatives to address binge drinking issues, including a variety of different alcohol-related policies on campus, programming through Boynton, the Campus Involvement Center, and Residential Life and Housing, to name a few.

Ed Ehlinger, Director of Boynton Health Services, reported that data is being evaluated to determine the causes of binge drinking, particularly to find out why this year is more extreme than others. Boynton is also trying to change the normative expectations of drinking in college, particularly when most students (65%) on campus have fewer than 3 drinks per week and 32% don't drink at all. There is also a great deal of education within fraternities, sororities, residence halls, and general classes; he added that a variety of strategies are being implemented across the campus. Boynton is also working metro-wide with other colleges and universities within the twin cities to focus on policy changes, including an attempt to intercept the sale of alcohol in grocery stores.

June Nobbe, Campus Involvement Center, stated they have worked extensively with the fraternities and sororities who have been implementing a lot of proactive programming related to alcohol education. She added that there has been an attempt by several leaders to start a GAMMA chapter, a student-initiated program related to alcohol education. They are also trying to work in conjunction with housing to develop an on-campus video using students from the U of M campus to show during orientation, perhaps starting next year.

Aramark.

Jane Canney reported that the student leadership on campus has been very vocal with their concerns about the movement toward the food service contract. A critical component has been the involvement of students as well as the

decision that all net revenue from the contract will go back to students, in particular Coffman Union, St. Paul Student Center, and other student initiatives. Concern was noted about the possibility of food poisoning outbreaks from food services at the university and whether or not there was any notation in the contract about university liability in such circumstances. Jane assured members of the continued conversations with the Campus Health Advisory Council and the Environmental Health and Safety Office, as well as the Department of Food Science and Nutrition. Ed Ehlinger added that food-handler training and immunizations are now being discussed by the Student Health Advisory Committee.

Policy and Procedures Manual.

Because changes were made in the section on grievance procedures and disputes, June Nobbe distributed a copy of the Policy and Procedures Manual for Student Groups and Activities to all members for their information and to replace the copy handed out at the October 22 meeting. She added that she would try to meet with Jesse Berglund and Susan Daniels before winter quarter to examine the committee's charge in the senate constitution for rewording related to how the relationship between student organizations and the university is described.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE PROJECT.

Esther Peralez reported that the first year project team is in the process of preparing a final report. Although the first year seminar remains somewhat controversial, everyone agrees that career development and advising should be linked together and that the seminar should occur in the first year. Recommendations have been made for the first year experience project, including whether an earlier orientation in May and June would help retain students, adding an off-campus center in addition to the Campus Involvement Center, consultation with the residential halls for the residential experience, and a comprehensive assessment of student employment and financial aid. On December 2, the project team will meet to discuss the final proposal with a Washington representative from the American Council on Education (ACE).

It was suggested that orientation could occur during the school year so prospective students can stay in the residential hall with mentors to guide them through a typical day or week at the university. Esther noted that subcommittee recommendations were for an earlier orientation to enhance the first year experience. However, students who are from out-of-state or are unable to attend may feel out of the loop if they miss the orientation and perhaps miss crucial registration periods; it was recommended that a number of slots be reserved for new students who cannot register for core classes with the other students at orientation. Another concern was whether orientation would conflict with high school senior events, such as the prom and graduation; late June was agreed to be the best time. Although the committee targeted only first year students, transfer students would also be able to enroll in the first year seminar. It was noted that if the first year experience seminar is going to be made mandatory, it should be publicized as soon as possible, particularly in preparation for the conversion to the semester system. Also, rather than having placement exams as part of the orientation, it would be helpful to computerize these exams and make them available in the offices of high school counselors so student can take them there; this would help to make the orientation experience at the U more pleasant for the students. It was also noted that the deans have discussed the hiring of additional staff positions during the orientations.

GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GAPSA).

It was reported that a volunteer service requirement is being considered for graduate students as part of their degree program. The student regent position is still an important issue being discussed by GAPSA. Sue Daniels won the National GAPSA President's Award -- Congratulations to Sue!!

MINNESOTA STUDENT ASSOCIATION (MSA).

There are several surveys being channeled through MSA at this time: 1) the Legislative Affairs Committee is conducting a survey about the regent selection process, which was approved by the Student Senate this past week; 2) surveys are being distributed on the student professor evaluations; 3) surveys are being distributed on the metro-transit routes and will continue to be used to survey commuters. The Student Transportation Advisory Council is continuing to request input from students related to transportation issues, such as convenience and frequency of buses. Also, U Corps is working closely with MSA on the changes to the grading system (i.e., minuses and plusses added to a letter grade).

TRANSPORTATION/BUS SERVICES.

Bob Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation, and Roger Huss, Assistant Director, attended the meeting during a discussion of issues related to transportation and bus services at the university. Bob Baker reported that the university is now into its second year of the transit design program, that the amount of service available on line has doubled by going to a 5-minute service, and that the east bank circulator route has been modified resulting in a significant increase in ridership. The average time to bus between the Minneapolis (west bank) and St. Paul campuses was reported to be 20-25 minutes; there seems to be more students busing from Minneapolis to St. Paul campus. Mr. Baker noted that he hopes to be working on a regular basis with the new student Transportation Advisory Committee and is very interested in trying to put together a U pass program. The U Pass program is a bus card for student to enable them to ride any bus, any time, anywhere in the metropolitan area; this would also increase bus ridership because the students have already paid for the service and will reduce the amount of car traffic in the metropolitan area. It is also possible that the U Pass package could be available for faculty and staff, as well as students, although difficulty arises because faculty and staff do not pay student services fees. It was asked whether studies have been done on the U Pass and whom it would serve; Mr. Baker reported that random sample studies were done last year concentrating on demographics with the U Pass. The primary focus of the U Pass is on the 50% who are still driving in single-occupancy vehicles.

Concern was raised by committee members about long waiting times for busses, particularly when students aren't able to board already-filled buses. It was noted that students would like to see better service between the Minneapolis and St. Paul campus. In addition, faculty are complaining because their students aren't getting to class on time. It was also noted that the weekend service seems to be lacking, and that the bus service stops before the end of classes at night (although the Senate resolution on closing classtimes should be checked because Mr. Baker reported they are in full compliance ending bus service when they do). With the colder weather coming, and in order to maximize student safety at night, it is important that students are not left waiting for buses. Overcrowding already seems to be a very serious problem, and yet bikers will begin to ride buses when the colder weather hits and drivers will be taking the bus to avoid driving on dangerous roads. Bob Baker reported that a \$20,000 budget contingency has just been released to address these types of issues; unfortunately, he added, after that money has been spent, there are no additional funds for parking and transportation.

Other issues discussed include the effects of closing the East River Road Ramp, effects of semester conversion, continued withdrawal of funding support, and the usage of the circulator buses.

The senate resolution on study space made by this committee last year was not listed among the others at the University Senate meeting; the senate staff will follow-up on this resolution before the next meeting.

Since many students would be out of town during the meeting scheduled for December 17, which falls after the end of the fall quarter, the December meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 1998 in 626 Campus Club in Coffman Union on the East Bank.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM.