

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES
APRIL 14, 1994

The fourth meeting of the Student Senate for 1993-94 was convened in 25 Law Center, Minneapolis campus, on Thursday, April 14, 1994, at 12:00 noon. Coordinate campuses were linked by telephone. Checking or signing the roll as present were 16 voting student members. Mr. Erick Harper, Student Senate Chair, presided.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Action

APPROVED

II. MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17, 1994
Action

APPROVED

III. REPORTS
Information

STUDENT SENATE CHAIR--Mr. Erick Harper, Student Senate Chair, told senators that on March 30, the University and the State University system held a joint Lobby Day at the Capitol. A press conference and rally was held in the morning which gave students an opportunity to express their views. One issue that surfaced was the repeal of the one-third debt service on University buildings. Lobby Day also afforded students an opportunity to meet with legislators.

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR--Mr. Love Goel reported that in a recent meeting with Associate Vice President Josie Johnson she expressed satisfaction that she is close to meeting the plan she set for herself for 1994 regarding the recommendations of the Diversity Task Force. Two of those goals were 1) increasing students of color at the University to 10% and 2) doubling the hiring of minority faculty. Mr. Goel further said he had met with the President to discuss the tuition issue and expects a student resolution on tuition to be forthcoming.

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR--Mr. Bryan Jansen, Student Legislative Director, outlined the House and Senate Bills that are under consideration. Included in the Bills is funding for work study programs, U2000 initiatives, and capitol bonding, however, the funding levels vary between the House and Senate in each area.

IV. STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
Resolution on Bonding Priorities
Discussion and Action

MOTION:

To approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota faces a growing crisis stemming from the decay and obsolescence of existing buildings and facilities;

WHEREAS, the cost of deferring maintenance increases yearly and becomes increasingly difficult to support;

WHEREAS, deferred maintenance may already carry a cost burden of nearly a billion dollars;

WHEREAS, continued deferral of maintenance and life safety improvements will have a serious effect on the functional, psychological, and financial well-being of the University's faculty, students, and staff;

WHEREAS, the current state bonding process does not take sufficient account of the University's need for life safety improvements and facility renewal and maintenance;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Student Senate supports the administration's emphasis on these matters at the Legislature;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Student Senate encourages the University administration to develop a specific long-term strategy with the Legislature to define and fund the needed improvements.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Rabun Taylor introduced the resolution. He noted that the University's Legislative request this year included a significant increase for facilities management because of the severe deferred maintenance problem at the University. He encouraged senators to support the resolution in order to send a strong message of support to the Administration for its efforts in this area. With little discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVED

V. FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION Information and Action

Item V. was withdrawn.

VI. STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATION Discussion

The Student Senate briefly discussed the issue of student representation in the Senate. According to the Senate Constitution, student representation is based on fulltime enrollment figures. It has come to the attention of Senate officials that for many years the Registrar's Office has been submitting head count figures to the Senate instead of fulltime figures. The mistake has resulted in greater student representation than was constituted by the Senate. Using fulltime figures, students should have 45 Senate seats for 1994-95. Fulltime figures would place the total number of seats at 58. The college most affected by the change is the Graduate School, which will lose 6 seats. Coordinate campus representation remains unchanged.

Mr. Raybun Taylor, Graduate School senator, argued that the Registrar's definition of a fulltime graduate student (9 or more credits) is not very realistic and recommended working with the Consultative Committee and the Registrar's Office to develop a more appropriate definition of a fulltime graduate student.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

The Student Lobby Advisory Committee's Legislative agenda for 1993-94, distributed to Student Senate members previously, was presented and endorsed by the Student Senate.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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