

[In these minutes: Future Financial Resources task force report, Campus Safety, December 3 Student Senate agenda]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Kathy Julik-Heine (chair), Aaron Carlson, Manjari Govada, Andrew Heairet, Jonathan Lundberg, Kris Schwebler, Andrew Smith, Greg Summers, John Worden.

REGRETS: Jeffrey Anderson.

GUESTS: Vice President Richard Pfutzenreuter, Vice President Steven Rosenstone, Officer Jason Tossey.

1. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE FINANCIAL RESOURCES TASK FORCE REPORT

Vice Presidents Steven Rosenstone and Richard Pfutzenreuter, co-chairs of the Future Financial Resources Task Force, joined the meeting to discuss the report. Vice President Rosenstone said that this task force was charged a year ago to respond to a small number of questions. After many meetings a two part report was created.

The first part details the new fiscal reality for the University. There are two main revenue streams that support the University – state support and tuition. The decrease in state support will be permanent as there is more pressure from a variety of groups for state funding. At this time costs are continuing to rise faster than revenues as the University has an ambitious plan for its academic agenda. Competition for students also increases as many institutions have improved and private institutions have a better graduation rate. The student demographic is also changing as many older adults are entering institutions and the Minnesota high school graduation rate is dropping. These are factors that the University cannot change.

The second part of the report discusses a variety of fixes while noting that there is not one thing that will make a difference, but instead a large portfolio of items that require attention to maintain the quality of teaching, research, and service. The University requires \$80 million per year for maintenance, which includes payroll, scholarships, programs, and technology. Revenue strategies include research, tuition, intellectual property, and fundraising while maintaining critical state support. A tuition balance needs to be found to maintain quality and access. Long-term tuition and financial aid modeling is necessary.

Restructuring of University costs is another component of the report. This means more than efficiency in areas such as advising, technology, and curriculum. It requires confronting cultural issues since 85-95 percent of the University's costs are related to people. The University will

need to define its nodes of academic excellence and might need to narrow its scope. Again, long-term financial planning and strategies to respond to fixed resources will be key.

Vice President Pfutzenreuter said that the University receives \$627 million from the state each year, but this is only 3.9 percent of the state's total budget. In 1987, this percentage peaked at 8.3 percent. There are new, rising costs for the state including K-12 education, property tax relief, health care, and prisons. State legislators know that if state support is cut, the University has a means of relief – tuition. There has been a shift in seeing higher education as a public responsibility to an individual benefit. The University's percentage of the state budget might be halved again in 10 years.

Currently, the largest recipient of state funding at the University is the Medical School which receives \$84 million per year. Of the University's total, 31 percent goes towards the Academic Health Center. Other large recipients are the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, the Institute of Technology, the College of Liberal Arts, and Duluth. If the University wants to make large cuts, it needs to go to the units receiving heavy state support, but the legislature has its own mandates. The state wants the University to graduate students in the health professions and with stem cell degrees, and also wants agricultural programs protected. This does not leave much wiggle room for the University.

One myth is that increasing federal grants can solve the University's financial issue. However, when administrative costs to oversee grants is considered, a grant actually costs more to administer than what is received. This is the overhead cost for a grant. At the University this is roughly 63 cents for every dollar of grant funding, which is lower than other institutions.

At the Regents December meeting a presentation will be made projecting Minnesota's economic future, costs, and its workforce. Revenue growth is projected to be half of what it was 20 years ago and increased health care costs are projected to consume the entire state budget. The University needs to be creative with its future plans and raise awareness of what is coming. Even though the University reallocates resources each year, this situation is much greater and it takes time to reduce costs by such large amounts.

Q: Who will make future budgetary decisions?

A: On academic matters it is the President, vice presidents, Regents, deans, and faculty.

Q: What can SSCC do?

A: Be involved in making the tough choices to protect the quality of the University for future students.

Q: Does the University know the cost difference between education for undergraduates and graduate students?

A: The University cannot accurately track these costs since many of the same people work with both groups. On average graduate programs are more expensive since they do not generate

revenue, but these are some of the workers being employed by the University to do teaching and research. The size of the University's graduate program is large compared to other institutions which makes it hard to attract top fellows with limited resources. The University needs to balance undergraduates, graduates, and professional students for quality and cost. The new Graduate School structure will allow for a systematic review of all graduate programs.

Q: What are other revenue streams that will have limited costs to the University?

A: One is sales and service of educational activities. Now, these are priced solely to recover their own costs, not any indirect costs. Increased annual, unrestricted fundraising is another option although this does have some costs as well.

Q: Is increased out-of-state tuition an option?

A: Non-reciprocity students currently pay \$4000 more per year. This could be slightly increased, but more out-of-state students equates to decreases in Minnesota students.

Q: Are task force meetings open?

A: The task force has concluded its work but a new group is being formed by the President.

Q: Will tuition continue to be a key component?

A: Yes, as the University has moved towards an institution of high tuition, high aid.

Q: What will be the University's balance between education and research?

A: The University continues to renew its investment in the educational experience with a renewed focus on undergraduates. Both students and the University benefits from the research being conducted.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

Kathy Julik-Heine said that the Student Advisory Council (SAC) is doing a report on publisher practices in light of new federal regulations for summer 2010. To help assess the current practices here, the FCC Chair is sending a message to faculty senators asking for their comments. Once completed, she will share the SAC report with the committee.

As a member of the Advancing Excellence Steering Committee (AESC), she said that they discussed the charge at the last meeting, which is to highlight University strengths and help with the reorganization process.

The student evaluation issue has been drafted into a resolution for later today. An email will be sent to senators highlighting the new Student Senate website. A separate message will be sent to student association presidents asking for reports for the site. To ensure questions for the Student Regent in December, she asked members to come prepared.

On a more humorous note, Kathy Julik-Heine relayed to members that she had received a request from Florida for the students here to consider a cosmic political science program. She distributed the pamphlet and asked any interested members to contact her.

3. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Kathy Julik-Heine said that she would like to have each representative email Becky Hippert within 24 hours of an SSCC with an association/assembly update for the Student Senate website.

Greg Summers stated that it is International Week on campus and is being sponsored by the Multicultural and International Club. A sustainability and recycling club is working on assigning a recycling bin to each club on campus, which will be in charge of emptying the container. The campus will also be participating in the Recyclemania challenge this year.

Jonathan Lundberg reported that the Duluth campus assembly approved a new liberal education program and requirements for fall 2011. The task force on smoking enforcement has recommended progressive fines. UMDSA is working on updating the course guide and an advising initiative with administration.

Aaron Carlson noted that MSA had a presentation on sustainability and agrees with a name change for the Institute of Technology to the College of Science of Engineering effective July 1, 2010.

Manjari Govada said that a student petition on the technology fee has received 500 signatures. A renter's council and forum is being planned. The campus assembly is working on its constitutional amendments.

4. ELECTION OF MEMBER TO THE STUDENT SENATE NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

Kris Schwebler was elected to the Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee.

5. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3 STUDENT SENATE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended.

6. DISCUSSION OF CAMPUS SAFETY

Jason Tossey, University Police Officer, joined the meeting to discuss campus safety. He said that considering where the University is located, overall crime is low compared to the rest of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Incidents, except for minor consumption, increase with distance from campus. The University has not experienced a domestic assault, business robbery, or homicide in over two years. Some auto theft is reported from students, but it is usually a mistake when the vehicle has actually been towed.

The message given to parents and students throughout orientation is that one major issue, theft, is completely preventable if students take simple precautions. There is usually a lull in activity in winter with an increase in spring, although drinking is always an issue around students.

Q: Why do students receive email reports of crimes on and around campus?

A: The Cleary Act requires institutions to notify students and the surrounding community of serious crimes in and around a college environment. Some times these notifications are delayed so as not to jeopardize an investigation. Students perception is that crime is increasing but what is actually happening is that the University is doing a better job of reporting. In 2004, there were 30 robberies from September through December. 13 people were arrested in four weeks through patrolling and the robberies stopped. These types of activities might not have generated an email at the time, but now would.

Q: Students perceive a heightened police presence with the party patrols. Is this accurate?

A: The University Police has begun to work more closely with fraternities. In the last 10 years, the University did not react to what took place along University Avenue since the fraternities were able to control their parties. However, during fights last year, it was determined that the fraternities could not control these conditions, even with armed security. At a meeting with Student Affairs, the Interfraternity Council, and the 2nd Precinct it was determined that there was too much risk and a public perception of lawlessness. An equal application of the law along University Avenue, as is done in other areas around campus, was necessary. There has been a heavier police presence since and a calmer atmosphere at these parties.

Q: What is the city ordinance on party houses?

A: Fraternities and sororities fall within the jurisdiction of the 2nd Precinct which has a noisy house ordinance. Many violators of this ordinance are willing to pay the fines without modifying their behavior. The party house ordinance allows the city to pursue the house owners when the renters have violations.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business, Kathy Julik-Heine thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate