

[In these minutes: Discussion with CAPA and CSC Chairs, campus updates, Morris chancellor search, Student Legislative Coalition, student evaluations, SSCC participation in administrative searches]

## **STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 17, 2005**

[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:** Josh Breyfogle (chair), Nicolas Allyn, Anthony Kouba, William Kusch, Rick Orr, Timothy Tangen, Jared Warren.

**ABSENT:** Brian Edstrom, Blake Hogan, Dion Turgeon.

**GUESTS:** Christina Balder, Matt Bowers, Jaki Cottingham-Zierdt, Kathy Yaeger.

### **1. DISCUSSION WITH MATT BOWERS, CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIR, AND JAKI COTTINGHAM-ZIERDT, COUNCIL OF ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS AND ADMINISTRATORS CHAIR**

Matt Bowers, Chair of the Civil Service Committee (CSC), said that his committee serves as an advocacy group for the 4500 non-unionized civil service employees on the Twin Cities and coordinate campuses. Two areas that they work on each year are establishing the pay plan with the administration and revising the Civil Service Rules which govern all the employees.

The committee itself is currently appointed by the President, but the CSC will discuss electing its members to get the constituents more involved. There are three officers – Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer – and the Senate Office provides the staff support.

They have subcommittees on Compensation, Benefits, and Advocacy. CSC also works to support the University through the legislative network. It has a website (<http://www1.umn.edu/csc/>) and sends a monthly newsletter to all civil service employees. Meetings are open to the public so he invited members to attend.

For next year's pay plan, the CSC has been involved in adjusting the salary ranges and has created two task forces to look at performance evaluations and merit pay raises. The committee would like to know how raises are determined and what method is used. They are looking at setting a floor for merit pay raises so that units will be able to judge and then distribute funds fairly.

Jaki Cottingham-Zierdt said that the Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators (CAPA) represents the 4600 employees in this classification, which is the broadest group at the University. While the minimum standard is a Bachelors Degree, many P&A employees have

their Ph.D. Employees in this group are vulnerable since all P&A employees are contract workers and can be terminated simply by non-renewal of the contract with no reason given.

CAPA itself was created as an appointed body but has since become a group whose members are elected by unit. CAPA itself then elects 23 of its members to serve as senators. It also has a website (<http://capa.software.umn.edu/>). Meetings are held on the third Friday of each month from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

She said that she would like to see more bridge-building between groups on campus. CAPA should know what students are interested in, what works and what does not, and what are barriers to education at the University. To help this process, CAPA has included a student liaison relationship in its Bylaws and provides time on each CAPA agenda for the student liaison to talk about what the students are doing. She would encourage the Student Senate to create a CAPA liaison relationship as well.

The committee thanked the chairs for attending this meeting and explaining what their two committees do. They were excited about the new dynamics that will be present at University Senate meetings and the chance for different voices and opinions to be heard.

## **2. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Josh Breyfogle thanked Rick Orr for initiating contact with CAPA and Civil Service. He believes that a liaison role is a useful step for students. He said that he is working on issues but has nothing to report at this time.

## **3. CAMPUS UPDATES**

Rick Orr presented the following report from MSA:

- Strategic planning is moving forward and several reports are due in December
- He has discussed the student evaluation questions being a mandatory release, but this is not possible under state law as long as the questions refer to the person teaching the course
- MSA passed a resolution supporting continued union negotiations but failed to pass a resolution supporting the continued existence of the General College
- HESO discussed bill HR609 which would cut support to financial aid. While the cut only cuts the authorized amount, not the appropriated amount, it will not have much effect at this time, but this cut could lead to future cuts being easier to approve. The Senate has approved the action and the House is still voting. MSA approved a resolution opposed to HR609.

Tony Kouba said that GAPSA approved a resolution on continuing union negotiations with AFSCME and not using caged-egg products on campus. They have also been working on arranging transportation to local stores for international students who do not have transportation or know the area. Lastly, they are looking into attendance at a funeral as an excused absence

from an exam; at this time non-attendance is at the professor's discretion.

Jared Warren mentioned the following items that MCSA is working on:

- Safety tour of campus was completed; additional security cameras will be installed with grant funds
- Working with the administration on the death of Rick Rose
- Late fall election will be held for open seats
- Strategic planning
- Student Legal Services held a session on campus that covered topics such as renter's rights and credit card debt
- Professors were asked to submit book lists for spring semester earlier so students had time to compare prices

Timothy Tangen reported on the following topics for UMDSA:

- He is working on a University-wide housing policy
- Parking is a problem at Duluth
- Taxi program, to operate when buses are not running, will be in place soon
- Night walk took place
- More security cameras are being asked for in parking lots
- Student seats on all-campus committees have been filled

#### **4. MORRIS CHANCELLOR SEARCH**

Kathy Yaeger, Associate to Senior Vice President Jones, joined the committee to talk about the process for choosing the students for the Morris Chancellor search. She said that the Chancellor's Executive Committee met with the Morris Executive Committee and developed a list of six student names. These were sent to SSCC, who forwarded back a prioritized list. Senior Vice President Jones and Professor Nancy Carpenter, search committee chair, spoke with several students on the list. Kathy Yaeger does know that one of SSCC's top choices did decline appointment, which is why a name from the second grouping was chosen. The second spot was then used to appoint a student of color for diversity on the committee.

Jared Warren expressed concern with one of the students chosen since they did not understand the time commitment, did not know that the current Chancellor was retiring, and did not have a full interest in the process.

Josh Breyfogle thanked Kathy Yaeger for providing the committee with information about the process.

#### **5. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE STUDENT LEGISLATIVE COALITION (SLC)**

Christina Balder said that she was asked to attend after Emily Cox and Nick Peterson were

unable to be at the meeting. There is a conflict with Lobby Day at the capitol. SLC chose April 13 and reserved the capitol and rotunda while the administration picked March 6. The administration chose the date since it is possible that the capital request could be heard early this year, but SLC is worried that there will be few legislators there on that date.

There will be a rally before going to the capitol so that student understand the request and what they should be speaking about. Details still to be determined are the timing of the event, morning versus afternoon, and whether lunch or dinner will be offered. The event will also be called Lobby Day instead of Maroon and Gold Day.

SLC has recently hired a lobbyist who will officially start in January, but who has offered to provide some guidance before her start date. A new grassroots coordinator is also in place. If students want to receive updates on the legislative process, they should register for the Legislative Network, which sends email notices.

## **6. UPDATE ON STUDENT EVALUATION QUESTIONS**

Rick Orr distributed the revised student evaluation questions. He asked that SSCC make any final changes today so that the revisions can be sent to the Educational Policy Committee (SCEP) for final approval. He said that the goal would be to implement the new questions first at the Twin Cities and Morris, and then to work with the unions at Crookston and Duluth.

The committee then walked through the questions and made several revisions, which will be communicated to SCEP.

## **7. DISCUSSION OF SSCC PARTICIPATION IN ADMINISTRATIVE SEARCHES**

Josh Breyfogle said that SSCC will continue to provide the administration with its recommendations, but receiving feedback as to why someone was or was not chosen is a key issue for SSCC. For future searches, SSCC should ask for a discussion before the decision is announced.

It was noted that a second piece of the search process is the interviews with candidates. These have started for Vice President for Access, Equity, and Multicultural Affairs, but there was only one student in attendance for the first interview. If SSCC wants to have more give and take at the beginning of the process, it has to be willing to continue with the rest of the process. This will be important for the Morris Chancellor search.

Josh Breyfogle then informed members that he was consulted late about the student appointment to the Associate Vice President for International Education Search Committee. The administration had already chosen a graduate student from Public Affairs who has studied abroad. The group has started to meet, but he was offered the opportunity to appoint another student. Members agreed that while an undergraduate student would be nice on the committee, there is not time for SSCC to find someone. The graduate student appointment was then approved.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

SSCC discussed the December Student Senate agenda, agreeing to add the Policy on Personal Electronic Devices and the Resolution on Employee Retention to the agenda, as well as a discussion of spring semester topics. The agenda was then approved as amended.

Josh Breyfogle then discussed SSCC responding to an email that was sent from the President to ask people to report bias-related incidents. As most members did not remember this message, it was agreed that Josh Breyfogle would forward it before any discussion took place.

With no further business, Josh Breyfogle thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate