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# The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minutes of:

## The Student Senate

Thursday, March 30, 2023

### 1. Call to Order

*Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

Chair Pavan Guttipatti called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

### 2. Administrative Response to Senate Actions (*Information*)

- [Resolution on Stipend and Tuition Archive Transparency \(STAT\)](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2022

Administrative Response: PENDING

### 3. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Student Senate Meetings (*Action*)

*Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the following Student Senate meetings:

- [February 23, 2023](#)

**Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.**

### 4. Assembly/Association Updates (*Information*)

*All members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)*

- Michael Waldorf, SSCC representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), noted that they recently concluded their elections and all newly elected individuals will start their terms at the end of April. They also amended their constitution and changed their name to the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Government Association (UMDSGA). The group has been working on a number of initiatives related to policies on excused absences, community service events, sidewalk accessibility, and welcoming transfer students.
- Gwen Vu, SSCC representative, Undergraduate Student Government (USG), announced that they too had their election results come in this week. USG is working on a number of

resolutions dealing with sidewalk plowing, prayer space, food labeling, and anti-hazing. They also held their first gala.

- Dannah Nephew, SSCC representative, Professional Student Government (PSG), said that the PSG gala was a success and they have finished dispensing their grants for the year.
- Henry Hauser, SSCC representative, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), noted that MCSA recently announced its election results. They are working on issues related to study lounge access and proper pork handling in their dining halls.
- MK Wolken, SSCC representative, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), said that they have been working with the President's and Provost's Offices on a report on graduate student stipends and basic needs. Graduate Student Appreciation Week is next week and they are prepping for their own gala and grant awards.
- Alex Christen, SSCC representative, Crookston Student Association (CSA), could not attend the meeting but submitted the following report:
  - Crookston Report for Student Senate 3/30/23
  - We are opening applications for 23-24 exec positions this week in order to get a jumpstart on elections before the end of the semester
  - Our student awards banquet will be held on April 20th, so we opened nominations for the outstanding CSA club representative and voting is happening this week as well.
  - Welcomed a new club - MN Farm Bureau club
  - Approved their constitution
  - Set the deadline for clubs to submit their community service hours for April 27th.
  - Welcoming Micheal from Duluth to speak about his resolution at our exec board meeting on April 6th and hopefully provide him with some insightful feedback!

##### **5. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report (*Information*)**

*Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

Guttipatti then presented his report where he stated that the SSCC was recently consulted about possible revisions to the Board of Regents' policy on Endowments. He made further remarks about the recent Minnesota Daily articles regarding allegations and charges against a current student senator from CLA. These allegations and charges are concerning and SSCC leadership along with the Senate Office have been monitoring the situation closely. He has heard from several senators expressing their legitimate concerns regarding the continued service of this senator in relation to both the integrity of the senate's work, and the safety of the members of the Senate. With that in mind, the SSCC met last week to discuss potential actions that could and should be taken by this body. At this time, the tentative plan is to call for a Special Meeting of the Student Senate to address the possible removal of the aforementioned senator. He further thanked the senators for their continued participation over the past year.

##### **6. Presentation on the College Student Health Survey (*Discussion*)**

*Colleen McDonald, Director of Health Services & Chief Health Officer, Boynton Health*  
*Katie Lust, Director of Research, Boynton Health*

Guttipatti introduced Colleen McDonald, director of health services & chief health officer, and Katie Lust, director of research, both from Boynton Health. McDonald presented information about Boynton Health via a [slide deck](#) and highlights were as follows:

- Boynton Health has been an innovator in student health for over 105 years.
- Its vision and mission are to have the healthiest campus in the nation and to improve the health & wellbeing of University of Minnesota students and the campus community.
- Boynton Health is a comprehensive college health service where you can receive almost all of the care you'll need while at the University. That includes a Pharmacy, Physical Therapy, and a Nutrition Clinic. All of these clinics are located in one building right on campus with care teams who work together. And don't worry, our health providers are NOT students or grad students — all are accredited medical professionals with years of experience in their respective fields.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, Boynton experienced an increase in telehealth visits and is now a much more viable method of care.
- Boynton sponsors the Nutritious U Food Pantry which opened a new location this year on the first floor of Coffman Memorial Union.
- Boynton has multiple locations including the East Bank, West Bank, Rec Well Center, St. Paul, and Minneapolis College.

Lust then presented data regarding the College Student Health Survey. She shared a [slide deck](#) and highlights were as follows:

- Lust provided information regarding all five system campuses and emphasized that it was important to not compare each campus to one another as they are very different.
- Areas covered in the presentation included health status/physical health, access to healthcare, high-risk drinking, cannabis use, and mental health.
- When discussing the average number of days in the past 30 days where students experienced poor health, the most prevalent number was on the Twin Cities campus, especially among those with disabilities.
- Students experiencing 11-30 of poor health per month tend to have lower grade point averages.
- The most frequent services obtained by students are dental care and routine doctor's visits. Students also access services for mental health care, emergency care, and STI testing and treatment.
- The prevalence of high-risk drinking was more likely among white and biracial undergraduate students.
- Cannabis use was not as prevalent among students as drinking but was most common on the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Morris campuses. Everyday use of cannabis tended to lead to lower GPAs.
- Poor mental health was common across each campus and was more common among females than males. Gender non-binary students experienced even higher rates at an average of 15 out of 30 days per month. Poor mental health is also associated with lower GPAs among undergraduates.
- Students who have reported being diagnosed with a mental health condition have grown significantly since 2007, especially depression and anxiety.

Guttiatti then opened the floor to questions and asked about the decline in in-person visits. McDonald replied that Boynton is dealing with a staffing shortage but also many students are preferring to utilize the telehealth options. They are aggressively recruiting to build back support staff. Adam Sychla asked what additional resources were needed to rebound. McDonald commented that improvements in culturally responsive care should be an important method in improving care, especially in dealing with historical trauma. Taiwo Aremu commented that more training is needed for those in scheduling in providing better access to care.

Jovany Betancourt asked if the proposed Fairview-Sanford merger would impact Boynton and McDonald replied that it would only potentially impact referrals for specialty services not on-site. Nicole Tran asked for further resources or entry points for students to access better mental health care services. McDonald said that she would follow up with further information after the meeting. Chris Stallard asked about respondent bias, where healthier people might not respond to the survey. Lust commented that there has been consistency in the long-term data over the years, especially in trends.

#### **7. [Resolution on Ensuring the Possibility of a Living Wage](#) (*Action*)**

*Adam Sychla, vice chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

**Motion:** To approve the Resolution on Ensuring the Possibility of a Living Wage.

Sychla presented a resolution aimed at ensuring a possibility of a living wage which also took aim at the subject of wage caps, the maximum amount an employee can earn in their specific job. He presented the resolution at the last meeting and reminded the body that wage caps can be at a level below the cost of living as established by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The resolution asked for the administration to raise any wage cap to above the DEED cost of living for a 100% appointment. It also calls for graduate students to earn twice as much as the cost of living due to the fact that graduate students are by default 50% employees and are not allowed to take a second job.

**Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.**

#### **8. Revisions to the Student Senate Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules (*Action*)**

*Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office*

- **Motion:** To approve the [Student Senate Constitution - Proposed Amendments](#) (Requires 40 affirmative votes to approve today)
- **Motion:** To approve the [Student Senate Bylaws - Proposed Amendments](#) (Requires 31 affirmative votes to approve today)
- **Motion:** To approve the [Student Senate Rules - Proposed Amendments](#) (Requires a simple majority to approve)

Guttiatti introduced Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office who provided an overview on proposed changes to the Student Senate governing documents. He noted that in any organized society or body, it is important that its governing documents are up to date and remain relevant. Periodic reviews of governing documents should occur on a timely basis. For the

University Senate, no such comprehensive review has been conducted in a few decades. Therefore, in 2019, the University Senate Office began a comprehensive review process. In February 2021, a work group was formed.

Neville William raised a point of information noting that the body had just over a quorum and asking if this can still be voted upon today. Kwapick commented that there are mechanisms within the constitution where if the vote today reached a certain threshold, it can be sent out for an electronic vote.

**Hearing no further discussion, a vote was taken on the Constitution Amendments and received the approval of 100% of those present and voting. The motion was subsequently sent out for an electronic vote after the meeting and was approved with 51 ayes and 1 nay.**

**A vote was taken on the Bylaws Amendments and received the approval of 100% of those present and voting. The motion was subsequently sent out for an electronic vote after the meeting and was approved with 51 ayes and 1 nay.**

**A vote was taken on the Rules Amendments and received the approval of 100% of those present and voting.**

#### **9. Resolution to Support the Greater Minnesota Scholarship Program (Discussion)**

*Michael Waldorf, SSCC representative, UMDSA*

Waldorf presented a resolution to support the Greater Minnesota Scholarship Program. He explained that the program is aimed to address enrollment decline at the greater Minnesota system campuses, especially since the pandemic. The Board of Regents requested that the state legislature fund this program in 2022, but no funds were ultimately allocated. The University has requested funds once again this year and UMDSGA is showing its support for the proposed legislation. These funds would help reduce the financial burden for students and to keep these campuses competitive with other local colleges. The resolution also calls for the University to develop a comprehensive plan to address the student financial burden on these campuses long-term. Waldorf is continuing to consult with other campus student associations as well.

#### **10. Resolution Addressing the School of Public Health Student Health Benefit Plan (Discussion)**

*Bob Libal, student senator, School of Public Health (SPH)*

*Jovany Betancourt, student senator, Medical School*

Bob Libal presented a resolution to address access issues to the Student Health Benefit Plan for students in the School of Public Health (SPH). He explained that due to some of SPH's online class offerings, many SPH students do not qualify for the student health benefits provided by the University. Qualifications include a threshold of a certain amount of in-person class credits. The resolution outlines the real-world impact of the current situation and asks the University to address this gap in its upcoming comprehensive review of the Board of Regents' policy: *Student Service Fees*. Ultimately, this will help more students and save them money by not having them utilize the more expensive private insurance market. Libal indicated that the resolution has been

supported by the SPH Student Senate and the Health Sciences Student Consultative Committee, and he is continuing to consult with a number of stakeholders.

### **11. Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **11. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **12. Announcements**

*The [Northern Stars Student Remembrance Event](#) honoring University of Minnesota Twin Cities students who have passed away in the past academic year will take place on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023. Visit the website for more information and to RSVP if you would like to attend.*

Tran announced that she is working on a resolution on infrastructure on the St. Paul campus and invited other senators to assist in working on it.

### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office