Minutes of:

The Student Senate

Thursday, November 9, 2017

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

1. Administrative Response to Senate Actions (*Information*)

- **Resolution on revisions to the parental leave policy for graduate students**

Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016
Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on the St. Paul Campus Vision**

Approved by the Student Senate: May 4, 2017

Administrative Response: The administration appreciates the Student Senate's resolution on the St. Paul Campus Vision and thanks the students for their work and dedication to this issue. The President has charged a broad group of stakeholders and decision makers with the task of developing a long-range plan for the St. Paul Campus and has made it imperative that students are included in this group.

The group is co-chaired by Dean of the College of Continuing and Professional Services Mary Nichols, and Vice President for University Services Mike Berthelsen and also includes Interim Vice President and Dean of Students Maggie Towle.

In the charge letter, President Kaler stated, "The members of the working group are asked to engage stakeholders from all sectors of the campus community in the development of the plan. A student advisory committee also will be included at all phases of the planning. This committee's membership should be constituted in alignment with the Student Senate Resolution on the St. Paul Campus Vision, with the support of staff from Students Unions and Activities."

Students are serving on the planning committee by level (undergraduate, graduate, professional) as well as by college (CFANS, CDes, VetMed, Dentistry, CBS, and CCE).

The administration notes the urgency communicated in the resolution as well as the focus on updating the St. Paul Student Center. Currently the timeline for this work is that during the Spring 2018 semester the focus will be on defining the campus profile based on academic programming needs per the University's three-fold mission. Then, they will look at realistic scenarios and financial models. The goal is to have a physical plan to review by the fall of 2018.

- **Medical Amnesty Resolution**

Approved by the Student Senate: April 6, 2017

Administrative Response: The administration appreciates the Student Senate's resolution on Medical Amnesty and reaffirms our commitment to align the Student Conduct Code with Minnesota state law.

- **Resolution on Equal Opportunity and Title IX Education**

Approved by the Student Senate: May 4, 2017

Administrative Response: The University administration appreciates the Equal Opportunity and Title IX Education resolution from the University, Student and Civil Service senates. Almost immediately after the resolution passed, the President charged Senior Vice President Brian Burnett, Executive Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson and then Vice President Katrice Albert with "developing training options around sexual misconduct issues for all faculty and staff."

The University's Office of Institutional Compliance and Office for Equity and Diversity and Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action have selected Everfi, an external content vendor, to develop the appropriate training that will fit the University's needs. Everfi can customize the training to the University of Minnesota Those customizations are currently being developed.

Content will be completed after the Board of Regents make a final decision on the Sexual Misconduct Policy at their December meeting. The finished training can then be implemented through an appropriate training management system, or other delivery tool.

The training provides elements required by law, case studies, questions that require interaction, and a summary of key takeaways. It is designed to keep the learner engaged. While it is not perfect, it provides a necessary level-setting for our whole community. Individuals will take the training focused on supervisor, or non-supervisor roles as appropriate.

For future iterations of the training, the inclusion of follow up materials to the on-line modules to facilitate post-training discussion

are also being considered. The current plan is to refresh the training content every 2-3 years.
The training delivery mechanism will provide for the tracking of all employees who complete the training.

Start date is dependent on approval by the Board of Regents of the Sexual Misconduct Policy. The earliest possible launch would be January 2018.

2. Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee - Approval of Appointed Senators   (*Action*)
Shantal Pai, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee

Motion: That the Student Senate approves the appointment of the following Twin Cities student senators, as selected by the Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee:
Jonathan Borowsky, CLA
Dominic Christensen, CFANS *(appointed by CFANS Student Board)*
Yarina Cordova-Teran, CLA
Aronee Dasgupta, CSE
Elizabeth Herman, CSOM
Melissa Hill *(appointed by CLA Student Board)*
Robert Rohloff, CEHD
Sai Sravya Velupula, CSE
Leticia Wamulumba, CSOM *(appointed by CSOM Student Board)*
Lulua Webo, CLA

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

3. Assembly/Association Updates
- Ethan Johnson reported that the Crookston Student Association (CSA) was planning to hold a "Support the U" Day on the Crookston campus in late January, 2018.
- Ruby Debellis reported that the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) had passed a resolution calling for the reinstatement of a campus-wide listserv for student announcements.
- Taylor Cronen reported that the Rochester Student Association (RSA) passed a recycling resolution, and that administration had responded favorably.
- Austin Evenson reported that the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA) was going to take part in the Student Senate Off-Campus Housing Survey, and was helping to draft the questions important to Duluth students. Also, UMD will be adding a community solar garden, and increasing their organics recycling bins.
- Nick Ames reported that the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) has passed a resolution urging University administration to track and report mental health metrics to

the community and the Board of Regents through adding these measures to the University Progress Card.
- Brianna Hanson reported that the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) had formed a sexual assault task force, and recently distributed a safety survey. MSA will also be launching a "Rename and Reclaim" campaign to urge the University to rename buildings in light of the recent exhibit in Anderson Library, *A Campus Divided: Progressives, Anti-Communists, Racism, and Anti-Semitism at the University of Minnesota, 1930-1942*.

4. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report
Shantal Pai, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee

Pai reminded senators to review a handout detailing who to reach out to if senators were interested in working on specific issues.

Pai encouraged senators to consider holding a leadership and outreach event ("tabling") on each campus if it made sense for their constituency. She reminded senators that they must set a date and find their own location, and provide this to the University Senate Office no later than two weeks prior to any event.

Pai reported that she would like to visit all campuses this year to meet with the student associations and talk about the Student Senate. She mentioned that she would also like to help to connect each groups legislative efforts and encourage students to attend "Support the U Day."

A subset of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) will be meeting with Provost Karen Hanson to discuss System-Wide Strategic Planning, and specifically the Teaching and Learning area, which Provost Hanson leads.

Pai reported that the Student Senate Off-Campus Housing Survey was in the final stages of development, and should be launched soon for students in Duluth, Rochester, and the Twin Cities (the Morris and Crookston campuses elected not to participate at this time).

5. Minutes for May 4, 2017 (*Action*)
Shantal Pai, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee

Motion: To approve the Student Senate minutes from May 4, 2017.

With no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion unanimously approved

6. BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS THE SYSTEM (*Discussion*)
Bill Paulus, interim vice president, Facilities Management
Brian Swanson, associate vice president, University Services
J.D. Burton, director, University Relations

Bill Paulus, interim vice president, Facilities Management; Brian Swanson, associate vice president, University Services; and JD Burton, director, University Relations presented *Facilities Renewal Update*, which Paulus explained is a multi-year view of building assets system-wide. Highlighted in the presentation were the following:

- The Facility Condition Needs Index (FCNI) is calculated by dividing the ten year needs of a building by the replacement value. This helps to determine if a building fits into one of five categories: Keep up, catch up, under review, do not invest (renew), or do not invest (dispose). Strategically, most money is spent on buildings that are intended to be used the longest.
- Nationally, deferred renewal is an issue at almost every institution of higher education. HEAPR funds from the legislature can help to address critical infrastructure needs. HEAPR funds are money from the state legislature that can be used for building maintenance needs (and the University is not required to match these funds, unlike capital project funding, which is funded by both the state and the University). HEAPR is the main component of the 2018 state capital request, and is double what has been requested in previous years.
- Building assessments are available on the Facilities Mangement website for all campuses: https://facm.umn.edu/sites/facm.umn.edu/files/2015_fcni_maps_system_final.pdf
- The University of Minnesota system has approximately 29,000,000 square feet of space, one of the largest in the country.
- The Board of Regents require University administration to annually present the budget and proposed Six-Year Capital Plan (created based on facilities priorities and mission priorities).
- The current Six-Year Capital Plan is a big shift from that of previous years; there is a focus mainly on reinvestment in existing building infrastructure. There are several competing priorities and dominos that need to be addressed when creating these plans, such as a progression of moves for faculty and staff to different buildings during renovations.
- The St. Paul campus review has been recently launched, and is one of the Board of Regents-approved priorities.

Chair Shantal Pai opened the floor for discussion.

Jonathan Borowsky, CLA senator, said that he noticed that while the Twin Cities campus is very beautiful, he has noticed a lack of community/collaborative spaces from graduate students and researchers, something which is common at other Universities. He asked how programmatic policies are set, and what the priorities were when designing new spaces. Swanson replied that the Capitol Strategy Group decides institutional priorities, but that the academic side develops priorities for space needs through the annual compact process. If this is something that is concerning, he recommended starting with the Vice President for Research and the Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, perhaps providing them with examples of places where this has been done well.

Adi Penugonda, ranking student senator, asked if students could have a list of priorities to use when speaking directly to legislators. Burton replied that yes, there is a list available on the University Relations website.

Ryan Machtmes, CEHD senator, asked about the prioritization of resources for CEHD, noting that many critical buildings in the presentation was in that college (for example, Pillsbury). He said he was also concerned with the renovation of the St. Paul campus, as CEHD did not seem to have representation on the advisory group.

Christina Larson, Veterinary Medicine senator, asked how the University could move away from officing graduate students and other lab employees inside of active research laboratories. She said that these labs contain dangerous chemicals and allergens, and noted that two of her colleagues had developed allergies from being stationed within a research lab.

Max Chu, CLA senator, asked where students would be able to study during improvements to University Libraries. Swanson responded that the ways in which students are using libraries is changing; it is likely that some book collections would be moved to a separate location, available via recall. By doing this, there will be more space for students; the Student Learning Commons in Wilson Library is a good example of this, he said.

Hunter Pederson, CLA senator, asked if the University had discretion over how HEAPR funds were spent, as opposed to being directed by the legislature. Burton replied that the legislature can earmark HEAPR funds for specific projects, but that would be unusual. The legislative strategy the University is using to request these funds is to focus on the impact of HEAPR projects to local communities (creation of jobs and revenue), and to showcase larger HEAPR projects together. While HEAPR funds may not be as attractive to fund as a new building, grouping projects together can be helpful.

Ruby Debellis, SSCC member, asked about the Morris campus projects ("upgrade HVAC and fire systems") and how students could see these changes on campus. Burton noted that the allocation of HEAPR funds was based on finished square footage; Morris would therefore receive about 3% of the funds; the campuses then control what projects to focus on, he said. Swanson added that University administration relies on Morris to define their priorities for the funds.

Chandler Peterson, CLA senator, noted that in Vincent Hall, classrooms still had chalkboards. She asked if rather than larger projects, the University could focus on these smaller issues to bring classrooms up to date. Swanson noted that while many classrooms are centrally managed by the Office for Classroom Management (OCM), some classrooms are controlled by departments. Improvements to departmental classrooms are then the responsibility of departments; if they decide to share the classroom with other departments (through turning it over to OCM), OCM could fund improvements to the classroom.

7. RESOLUTION: EXPANDING ON-CAMPUS CHILDCARE (*Action*)

Nicholas Ames, member, Student Senate Consultative Committee
George Abdallah, senator, College of Liberal Arts

Topic: Supporting student parents system-wide through the collection of student parent data, and on the Twin Cities campus through stable funding source for childcare grants
Date: November 9, 2017
For consideration by the Student Senate, University of Minnesota

BACKGROUND:
Student parents are a unique and important part of the University community at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Data collected by Boynton Health estimates that 14% of graduate students on the Twin Cities campus are parents, and 5% are expecting. Since the 1980s two student group sponsored co-ops, the Community Child Care Center (CCCC) located in the Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative (CTC), and the Como Early Learning Center (CELC), located in the Como Student Community Cooperative (CSCC), have offered accredited child care with sliding-scale fees amounting up to 25% of tuition due to their ability to apply for Student Services Fee (SSF) funding.

Compared to several peer institutions, the University of Minnesota system offers fewer officially recognized options for accredited child care. Existing options at the University of Minnesota are comparatively under-funded and under-supported. For example, as of 2015, there are 140 spots within the childcare centers that lease space from the University of Minnesota on the Twin Cities campus. Comparatively, childcare at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has spaces for 443 children. On-campus resources of CCCC, CELC, and UMCDC have combined waitlists approaching an excess of 600 children indicating a system-wide deficit in resources for student parents. Unfortunately, without additional data, this deficit can not be fully understood.

On the Twin Cities campus, changes to the Student Service Fee (SSF) process may create a decrease of $140,000 in funding towards the CCCC and the CELC (although spring 2018 allocations have not yet been determined), threatening the ability to offer the sliding-scale fees for those who are most vulnerable. A solution that has been implemented is an annual $150,000 grant program for student parents to use towards childcare costs. This program offers increased flexibility to student parents and allows the Office for Student Affairs (OSA) to serve student parents who were ineligible for benefits in the past. OSA and the Student Parent Help Center (SPHC) have both committed to making these funds accessible to as many students as possible. However, full information on the system-wide needs of undergraduate, graduate, and professional students is still not available, and year over year grant funding tends to be more vulnerable to dissolution than commitment through a formal process. It also places the onus of application on the student parent, who may not know that there are assistance funds available.

RESOLUTION:
Whereas, the changes to the Student Group SSF process have affected the ability of CCCC and CELC to serve the University of Minnesota Twin Cities community with affordable on-campus child care options for students as part of an effort to support student parents,

And whereas, the University of Minnesota system is a land grant institution charged with the education of the state as a whole, including those that are most vulnerable,

And whereas, the proposed $150,000 child care assistance grant may be difficult for student parents to access without proper outreach and public engagement,

And whereas, the Student Senate stands behind all student parents and graduate student parents, specifically in the University community, and commends the University administration's previous support of student parents through CCCC and CELC as well as their continued support through the grants program; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Student Senate will increase awareness of programs for student parents and encourage student parents to apply for childcare grants on the Twin Cities campus by fostering connections between the Student Parent Help Center and student parents during the 2017-2018 school year by partnering with MSA, PSG, and COGS to develop a communications strategy for each constituent group, and be it further

Resolved, that the Student Senate urges the University administration, in recognition of the unique role adequate child care support plays in serving the University community and in order to preserve the ability of students to be able to obtain adequate child care options, to commit to solidifying existing grant funding and engaging in awareness outreach, and be it further

Resolved, that the Student Senate urges the University administration to conduct a data survey of the demographics and needs of student parents on campus for the entire University of Minnesota System, and be it further

Resolved, that we urge the University to expand services and funding to student parents in the University of Minnesota System, commensurate with the findings of the aforementioned data survey, and to conduct this survey regularly, in periods not exceeding two years, in order to be able to make an informed decision about supporting this vulnerable community.

Nicholas Ames, SSCC member, presented the resolution.

Chair Shantal Pai opened the floor for discussion.

Jonathan Borowsky, CLA senator, noted that the State of Minnesota has a website which tracks parent data, and that it shows a deficit around the Twin Cities campuses. He asked why the resolution focused on funding and data collection rather than increasing the number of childcare centers for student parents. Ames replied that the resolution originally drafted by COGS called for restoring funding to childcare centers near campus after a change in the SSF process. Grants now provided by the Office for Student Affairs (OSA), which allows students qualifying for the grants to use the funds at any childcare center, which has the potential to help more students. This request for information for the administration will help to inform a more long-term plan to support student parents system-wide.

CJ Griebenow, CCE senator, asked if it would be better for the resolution to call for more than $150,000 in grant funding, and asked how outreach to students detailing these resources would be done. Ames responded that $150,000 is the funding floor; the data collection will help to determine what a more appropriate number may be. Outreach to Twin Cities students to provide information about the Student Parent Help Center will be done by the campus student governments.

Aleksander Holleran, vice chair, stated that he felt the system-wide data collection portion of the resolution was an important one.

Matthew Berg, SSCC member, asked how senators could make sure the student parent data was collected effectively. Pai responded that senators and SSCC members would help to develop questions to send to Executive Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson for review after passage of this resolution.

Hunter Pederson, CLA senator, voiced support for the resolution, noting that the data will help to make a non-visible population more visible to offer better resources.

Kelly Wallin, CBS senator, asked if grants for student parents were available to all students, or only to those students that pay SSF fees. Ames replied that OSA is willing to work with students on this issue to help non-SSF paying students access services, including international students and others who may be prevented from accessing the childcare grants. Wallin voiced support for the resolution.

With no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the resolution was unanimously approved.

8. Old Business
None.

9. New Business

Joshua Preston, Law School senator, and chair, Student Representatives to the Board of Regents (SRBOR), encouraged senators to attend the March Board of Regents meeting to hear the SRBOR report to the board. Representatives spend months preparing and researching in order to prepare for the report. This year, said Preston, the SRBOR are focusing on: diversity and inclusion, data privacy, and business ethics.

Preston also invited senators to attend the December Board of Regents meeting, where they will be discussing System-Wide Strategic Planning.

Lauren Mitchell, CLA senator, asked how the SRBOR came up with their priorities, and if they were chosen in collaboration with student governments. Preston replied that students in the SRBOR are charged with representing all students across the system, though the priorities were identified by student governments before coming to the group for a vote on final priorities. For example, he said, student mental health has been part of the SRBOR report for the last two years, so members chose to focus on other topics this year. Members are still interested in finding other ways to advocate for student mental health resources even though it will not be part of this year's report, and he offered to work with COGS.

Mitchell noted some concern with some of the issues identified as they seemed a little trivial. These reports can make a lasting change, she said, and she wondered if these items aligned with big picture priorities.

Preston advised senators with questions or comments to contact him directly.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 p.m.