
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Classroom Advisory Subcommittee (CAS) November 15, 2021 Minutes of the Meeting

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

[In these minutes: Chair's Report; Debrief on Twin Cities Campus Plan]

PRESENT: James Cotner (chair), Todd Arnold, Mark Bergen, Amie Bergerson, Keith Brown, Dave Crane, Kerry Ebert, Dave Hutton, Roberta Kehne, Clara Kilgas, Sandy Mand, Jose Ricardo Valentin Pena

REGRETS: Dalton VonRuden, J.D. Walker

ABSENT: Andrew Jenks

1. Chair's Report

Professor Jim Cotner, chair, called the meeting to order and informed the committee that the presentation on HVAC and covid safety measures on campus that the committee heard at its last meeting had been presented to the University Senate. It was very well-received, he said. He wondered aloud what evaluation has been done on non-classroom spaces, and David Crane responded that those spaces are reviewed upon request.

2. Debrief on Twin Cities Campus Plan

Next, Cotner gave members the opportunity to provide feedback on the Twin Cities Campus Plan, as discussed at the September 2021 meeting. He noted that the plan would be going to the Board of Regents in December.

Members had the following feedback:

- CAS could find out what initiatives are under the priorities listed in the plan, then make sure to interface with the correct people.
- The subcommittee's voice on classroom considerations will be critical, as the plan is focused more on the big picture.
- COVID has necessitated many changes that are actually helping the University be more inclusive. Online learning should be part of the equation.
- The Office of Classroom Management (OCM) desires to engage early and often with leadership to provide background, assist with forecasting and modeling, and provide information for the compact process.

- Members observed the following trends in the hybrid learning environment:
 - Many students who were present in the room also logged into the Zoom session.
 - In the hybrid environment, the ambient noise level and lighting are important.
- If the University commits to hybrid/online learning, the rooms will have additional functional needs that will need to be supported.

Cotner suggested that the time might be right to think about a classroom strategic plan. The committee decided to work on this in the new year.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office