

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2009

[In these minutes: H1N1 Update, Committee Charge, 2009 – 2010 Agenda Items]

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

PRESENT: Thomas Reynolds, co-chair, Olga Zakharenko, co-chair, Nathan Pelzer, Thomas Bilder, Amelious Whyte, Joyce Holl, Carlos Torelli, Adam Arling, Silvia Canelon, Megan Hines, Miranda Kacer, Kristin O'Connor, Thomas Rozeske

REGRETS: Elizabeth Vose, Gabriele Schmiegel

ABSENT: Kendre Turonie, Anthony Albecker, Christiane Bartels, Andy Howe, Philip Mlaker

GUESTS: Elizabeth McClure, M.D., M.P.H, medical director, AHC Office of Emergency Response

I). Professor Thomas Reynolds and Olga Zakharenko, co-chairs, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

II). Professor Reynolds introduced the main agenda item, a H1N1 update, and welcomed Elizabeth McClure, M.D., M.P.H, medical director, AHC Office of Emergency Response.

Dr. McClure began by saying that the University has been planning for a pandemic since before 2005 when it began planning for the H5N1 Avian flu. As a result of significant planning, the University has Annex R in its Emergency Operations Plan, which deals with its pandemic influenza response.

Dr. McClure stated that H1N1 came on the scene in the spring of 2009, and originated in Mexico although it was first seen in California as part of a pilot surveillance program. H1N1 was detected early because people were specifically looking for novel strains of flu.

While H1N1 did never went away last summer, there has been a significant uptick in reported cases since kids started returning to school. At the University of Minnesota, if students have influenza-like symptoms they are being asked to leave the residence halls and go home if possible. If they are unable to go home, students are being asked to stay in their rooms for the duration of their illness, which means until they are fever-free without medication for 24 hours. To further help stop the spread of H1N1 the University

has a program in place for delivering meals to students with the flu in the residence halls. Students with H1N1 are also being encouraged not to go to Boynton Health Service unless they have an underlying chronic condition or other symptoms above and beyond the typical H1N1 symptoms. Because students are being encouraged to not go to Boynton Health Service, the requirement that students provide their instructors with a doctor's note is temporarily being suspended. Additionally, the University is utilizing student volunteers who are called "health advocates" to keep a pulse on the number of cases of H1N1 that are being seen in the residence halls. Early on in the school year, noted Dr. McClure, there was an uptick in cases, which flattened for awhile until recently when there has been another uptick in cases.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, the state has widespread disease. As with most flu outbreaks and particularly pandemics, the number of reported cases is expected to rise over the course of the next 6 – 8 weeks, and then begin to fall off. Minnesota is still seeing an upward trend in cases currently, and has yet to reach a plateau.

Moving on, Dr. McClure addressed vaccinations. Two kinds of vaccines will be available this fall, the seasonal flu vaccine and the H1N1 vaccine. Initially it was thought that there would be plenty of seasonal flu vaccine to vaccinate people who chose to get vaccinated, however, that has changed. Boynton Health Service (BHS) was informed within the last 48 hours that they will not receive any more seasonal flu vaccine. Currently, BHS has approximately 3,000 seasonal flu vaccine doses left, and they plan to start an on-line registry for the vaccine, which is being reserved for high-risk individuals. BHS will get H1N1 vaccine, but it is unknown when it will start receiving this vaccine. People in the various risk groups, e.g., pregnant women, people age 6 months to 24 years, health care workers, people with underlying conditions, will be encouraged to get their vaccinations when it becomes available.

Dr. McClure then took a few members' questions. Members thanked Dr. McClure for her presentation.

III). Professor Reynolds turned to Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, for an overview of the committee charge. Copies of the charge were distributed for members to review. At the request of Professor Reynolds, Ms. Dempsey explained where the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) fits into the larger Senate structure. She reminded members that the committee has systemwide responsibilities, which means it deals with systemwide issues and not just Twin Cities issues.

With respect to attendance, noted Professor Reynolds, there is an attendance policy. Copies of the policy were distributed to members. Ms. Dempsey stated that attendance is very important, and the attendance policy is intended to reinforce the importance of member attendance and participation at meetings.

In response to a question about the role of the committee, Ms. Dempsey stated that in the past several years the committee has primarily received reports on different issues of

concern to members. She noted that one way the committee can more broadly communicate an issue is to draft a resolution or position statement, which can be brought to the Student Senate and/or University Senate for either information or action.

IV). Ms. Zakharenko asked that the committee spend the remainder of the meeting discussing what agenda items members would like to have on future meeting agendas. A list of ideas that were generated at the last meeting of the 2008 – 2009 academic year was distributed for members' consideration. Other ideas that were generated included:

- Look at the changes that are taking place with liberal education requirements as a whole. Learn what changes are being proposed and how these changes are being marketed to students.
- Tap into the 'live like a college student now so you don't have to later' campaign to learn what the University is doing to create more financially savvy students.
- Learn what options are available to the committee for acting on issues they deem important so that the committee can more broadly communicate this information to the University community.
- Learn about the services One Stop Student Services offers students in terms of career planning, etc.
- Student Conduct Code.
- Learn about what the University is doing to enhance relations between students and the surrounding neighborhoods. Invite Kendre Turonie from Student Affairs and Jan Morlock from University Relations to share this information.
- Members commented that they wanted to be mindful of not duplicating what other Senate committee are working on.

Members commented that they needed to be mindful of not duplicating what other Senate committee are working on when deciding which issues to take up.

V). Hearing no further business, Professor Reynolds adjourned the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming today and stated he looks forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting on November 11, 2009.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate