

[In these minutes: Student Senator responsibilities, Crookston visit, Alcohol Task Force Report, 2004-05 SSCC/Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair, other student issues]

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

**APRIL 1, 2004**

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

**PRESENT:** Dan Weiske (chair), Joshua Colburn, James Kanten, Scott LeBlanc, Charles Stech, Jeremy Steil, Adam VanWagner.

**ABSENT:** Sean Bell, Derek Brunsberg, Levi Kary.

### **1. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF STUDENT SENATOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Adam VanWagner said that the Student Committee on Committees (SConC) discussed this issue at its meeting and decided on guidelines. First preference for filling committee seats should be given to senators when reviewing applications. SConC did not want to mandate senator service on committees or leave committee seats open until senators apply. SConC's main goal is to fill all student committee seats each year, although it is important to have opportunities available to senators and make these known.

Once senators have been assigned seats, returning committee members will be considered. A notice to new senators and current committee members will be emailed in spring. SConC will then meet in May to make initial appointments. Before fall semester, senators and all students will then be given an opportunity to apply for the remaining open seats.

The committee then discussed requiring senators to serve on other bodies, making the following comments:

- Senate know does not mandate any other service
- Should other bodies make the request for senator service rather than the Senate assuming that senators should serve in other bodies?
- Should senators have to choose between service on an assembly and a student board?
- Senators should be actively involved in some other level besides the Senate, although the choice should be theirs
- Senators help establish ties between groups
- If a change is made, will it have any effect?
- Senators feel that they are not doing anything and want to be more connected
- Senators want to be in MSA this year, which is not always the case
- Mandated service might dissuade students from serving as senators

- Constitution, Article III, Section 5d, membership should only be able to be revoked by the root organization/appointing body, not an intermediary agency
- Should the Senate be able to remove a member if they are fulfilling other functions of their duties or should the Senate just recommend removal to the appointing body?
- College boards lose a connection when their senators do not serve
- Information should be gathered first on which college boards require senators to attend, and whether they want senators to attend, before a change is made
- Senators should have to serve on one other body, either a Senate committee, the student assembly, or the college board
- Would this system force two elections to be held, one for senators to the Senate and one for senators to the student assemblies?
- Separate elections might allow one group to languish after a weak year if it cannot attract new, strong members
- Better connections between groups hinge on the quality of the students serving, not the numbers; this proposal tries to control something that it cannot
- Most of these issues only affect Twin Cities senators
- Senators need to be told what they are required and expected to do

A motion was made and approved to change the language in the Constitution, Article III, Section 5d, to what was proposed. Other changes will be brought to the next meeting.

## **2. FINALIZE CROOKSTON VISIT**

Dan Weiske said that the Crookston visit would take place on Sunday, April 18. Members traveling would be: Dan Weiske, Scott LeBlanc, and Charles Stech. Sean Bell, Levy Kary, and Derek Brunsberg will need to be asked. Logistics will be sent in a follow-up email.

## **3. ALCOHOL TASK FORCE REPORT**

Charles Stech stated that a draft of the final report was emailed to task force members for review. The final report will be presented to the Student Senate in April. The report proposes that another committee continue working on this issue next year. He then provided some information contained in the report.

A member noted that details will need to be included in the report for it to be useful to a new group next year.

## **4. 2004-05 SSCC/STUDENT SENATE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Dan Weiske reminded members that both of these positions will be elected at the April Student Senate meeting. An email will be sent to all newly-elected senators announcing these positions.

## **5. DISCUSSION OF OTHER STUDENT ISSUES RECEIVED VIA EMAIL**

Students reviewed the list of other topics and questions that students submitted for the discussion with the President in March, making the following comments:

- Students still do not know why there is an All-University fee or why it increased; the answer is that it replaces money lost through Wisconsin reciprocity since Wisconsin students have to pay the increased fee, but not increased tuition charges
- Campus transportation is an issue since officials will not listen to the student viewpoint

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

The committee then discussed the recent straw poll on the proposed reorganization. Results so far have been ambiguous regarding support, although there is clear dissent for option 4. FCC gave guidelines to Dan Feeney regarding the continuation of this effort, although they do not want to continue if there is not strong support for change.

With no further business, Dan Weiske thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate