
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP)

March 23, 2022

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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Financial Aid; Digital Learning Task Force Update]

PRESENT: Thomas Chase (chair), June Carbone, Shawn Curley, Brett Heischmidt, Stephanie Huisman, Sara Hurley, Murray Jensen, John LaVelle, Danya Leebaw, Bob McMaster, Betsy Murray, Densie Odello (for Nadezhda Sotirova), Bob Poch, Jennie Row, Katherine Scheil, Lucas Simpson, Drew Vechell, Ethan Voss

REGRETS: Scott Lanyon, Jessica Larson

OTHERS: Toni Abts, director, Graduate School Policy Office; Matthew Croft, undergraduate student; Jessica Kuecker Grotjohn, assistant to the vice provost, Office of Undergraduate Education; Brianna Menning, assistant to the president, Office of the President; Jennifer Reckner, director, Office of Undergraduate Education; Leslie Schiff, associate dean, University curriculum, Office of Undergraduate Education; Stacey Tidball, associate vice provost, Academic Support Resources

1. Financial Aid

Professor Tom Chase, chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Robert McMaster, who provided his [annual update on financial aid](#) to the committee. Highlights included the following:

- Financial aid highlights from the past year:
 - Established [Promise Plus Free Tuition program](#) for new freshmen Minnesota families making less than \$50,000; started in fall 2021. This grant provided about \$27 million in aid systemwide, proportional to the number of students on each campus.
 - Created [Native American Promise](#) Free and Reduced Tuition starting in fall 2022
 - Bentson Scholarship Match (\$15 million x 2 or 3)
 - Distribution of \$85 million Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds directly to students during the pandemic

- Included in the University's supplemental request to the state is \$60 million for student financial support, which would be used to enhance the Promise program and provide scholarship for students to attend system campuses in greater Minnesota.
- Over the last 20 years:
 - Twin Cities enrollment has increased 28%
 - Total Twin Cities student loans debt rose until about 2009-10 and since then has been going down, for a net increase of 69% from 20 years ago
 - Twin Cities undergraduate tuition has increased 207%
 - total University scholarship and grant aid has increased 457%
- Roughly 46% of Twin Cities undergraduates do not have to borrow because of gift aid (though there is a sector of private loans that the administration does not get data on)..

2. Digital Learning Task Force Update

Chase informed the committee that the Student Academic Integrity Committee (SAIC) had signed on to SCEP's request for the provost to form a task force to look at ethics and privacy in digital learning tools, such as Proctorio, and that Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson was on board with the idea. He added that he and Professor Ken Leopold, chair of SAIC, had talked with the provost about the potential composition of this group.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office