

Social Concerns Committee
January 29, 2018
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:** Update on Organics Recycling Resolutions; Update on Sanctuary Campus Resolution; Discussion of the Closure of the Child Development Center; Update on the President and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History; Discussion of the Proposed Changes to the Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*]

PRESENT: Ingrid Nuttall (chair), Randy Croce, Abigail Dayton, Linda Frizzell, Zan Gao, Aleksander Holleran, Hyunjoo Im, Aseem Kaul, Tristan Kick, Derek Kiewatt, William Larson, Molly Schwartz, Melissa Sellew, Sarah Sexton, Nicole Smiley, Megan Sweet

REGRETS: Lena Brakel, Becca Gercken, Nicholas Goldsmith, Gabriella Kraus, Alex LaValley, Leah Peterson, Boris Volkov

ABSENT: James Mason, Alex Oftelie

1. Update on Organics Recycling Resolutions

Chair Ingrid Nuttall called the meeting to order and asked Nicole Smiley to give an update on the organics recycling resolutions. Smiley informed members that she and Nuttall, along with Dana Donatucci, recycling supervisor, Facilities Management, had visited the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA) and the Senate Committee on Finance and Planning (SCFP) in order to seek endorsement of the two resolutions. SCFA endorsed the resolution. Members of SCFP were generally supportive of the spirit of the resolutions, but wanted additional details on the financial impact of implementing centralized collection of waste. Donatucci, along with Bill Paulus, interim associate vice president, Facilities Management, and Linda Weingarten, interim director, Central Services, Facilities Management, will attend the February 20, 2018, SCFP meeting in order to brief the committee on the results of a pilot study on central collection. Smiley and Nuttall will attend as well, in case there are further questions on the resolutions. Smiley and Donatucci will also attend the February 16, 2018 of the Civil Service Consultative Committee in order to seek endorsement. Smiley added that two meetings with the administration have been scheduled: one with Paulus, Weingarten, and Shane Stennes, director, sustainability, University Services about the central collection resolution, and one with Amy Keran, director, Contract Administration, and Jeff McKinley, interim director, M Dining, regarding the compostable serviceware resolution. Melissa Sellew commented that while financial cost is an important consideration, there are other types of costs (environmental, health, etc.) that should be factored in as well; members agreed.

2. Update on Sanctuary Campus Resolution

Next, Sarah Sexton gave a brief update on the sanctuary campus resolution. First, she said, it is now calling for the campus to be named a Safe Zone, rather than a sanctuary campus. She explained that the resolution first came about because the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) had brought a similar resolution to the committee for endorsement. The committee felt the issue was important but did not endorse the COGS resolution due to several factors, and decided instead to draft its own. Sexton said that the process has been quite complicated, as the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul have different policies around immigration status and cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). She explained that the two cities do not hold undocumented individuals for ICE, but Hennepin county does. The focus of the resolution is to affirm the University's support for undocumented students, faculty, and staff; define the available resources; and support continuance of the Immigration Response Team. Aseem Kaul commented that there seems to be a fair amount of confusion about what current policy actually is (for example, city versus county policy) and wondered if a request for clarification of these policies should be included as part of the resolution. Sexton said that this information, while previously unavailable or unclear, is becoming more available to the public, and agreed that the resolution should include references to resources where this information can be found.

3. Discussion of the Closure of the Child Development Center

Nuttall then turned the conversation toward the planned closure of the University of Minnesota Child Development Center (UMCDC), which had been announced to parents and UMCDC staff on January 22, 2018. On January 26, the provost sent an [email](#) communicating that the plan was to close the UMCDC in June 2019, and in the meantime, put out a request for proposals (RFP) for private daycares to provide campus childcare. In this email, the provost also stated that she would work with the Faculty Consultative Committee and the Senate Consultative Committee to convene an advisory group with representation of the range of interested parties, including UMCDC staff and parents, who will give input on the next steps and provide input on the RFP. Nuttall said that a group of parents with children at the center, or whose children had attended it in the past, were organizing a campaign to try to keep the center open. She invited thoughts from the committee. Randy Croce pointed out that the issue of campus child care had been discussed in University Senate committees many times throughout the last decade, but the conclusion had always been that child care options should be expanded. Aleksander Holleran added that COGS and the Student Senate had been advocating for increased child care on campus for student parents. Members generally agreed that while the decision to close the UMCDC was regrettable and could have been handled better, providing child care options for the campus should not be the responsibility of one college, but of the central administration, and that the need for child care on campus was a broader issue than this specific incident.

4. Update on the President and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History

Next, Nuttall gave an update on the President and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History, on which she represents the Social Concerns Committee. Nuttall said that at the last meeting, the committee had discussed how to include relevant communities in future discussions, what communities should be included, and what changes should be recommended in University policies. At its next meeting, the committee will begin to shape its recommendations for the president and provost, Nuttall said; these recommendations will likely include ensuring ongoing

engagement by the University community around complicated aspects of University history. She added that people feel strongly that student activism needs to be part of that history.

5. Discussion of the Proposed Changes to the Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*

Finally, Nuttall turned over the floor to Aleksander Holleran, who brought up the proposed changes to the Student Conduct Code, which clarify the circumstances under which a student group and/or its officers may be held responsible for breaches of the code by members of the organization, or breaches that occur at sponsored events. Holleran said that students were very concerned about the implications of these proposed changes, which they feel leaves too much judgement up to the administration and infringes upon student freedom of expression. Megan Sweet explained that these changes were initiated by the regents, not the administration, and Amber Bathke, senate associate, University Senate Office, added that the Regents had imposed a very tight timeline, but feedback had been requested from the committees identified for consultation on the [Board of Regents Policy Review Matrix](#). Holleran suggested that the committee write a letter or resolution on the topic. Sweet cautioned that it would be important to consult with those who had drafted the changes before taking any action, and Kaul suggested inviting these individuals to the next meeting. Nuttall proposed that since the Board of Regents was due to vote on the changes at its meeting on February 9, 2018, that individuals should express their concerns via the public comment mechanism on the Policy Program's website.

Hearing no further discussion, Nuttall adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office