
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minutes of:

The Student Senate

Thursday, March 31, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate, called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Administrative Response to Senate Actions (*Information*)

- [Resolution on Demilitarization of UMN Policing Forces](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: February 25, 2021

Administrative Response: Pending

- [Resolution Concerning Caste-Based Discrimination](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: September 30, 2021

Administrative Response: [CLICK HERE](#)

- [Morris Campus Student Association \(MCSA\) Resolution on the Native American Promise Plan](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: March 3, 2022

Administrative Response: [CLICK HERE](#)

- [Resolution Addressing the 2022 Invasion of Ukraine](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: March 3, 2022

Administrative Response: [CLICK HERE](#)

3. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Student Senate Meetings (*Action*)

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Motion: To approve the minutes from the following Student Senate meetings:

- [March 3, 2022 Regular Meeting](#)

Hearing no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

4. Assembly/Association Updates (*Information*)

All members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)

- Nam Nguyen, SSCC member, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), stated that UMDSA recently passed a resolution on academic accommodations which asks for more flexibility in excused absences due to COVID-19 illness. Additionally, UMDSA is looking to address the campus' funding gap so as to avoid tuition increases for next year. UMDSA is also in the midst of holding its annual elections.
- Yusra Yusuf, student body president, Rochester Student Association (RSA), stated that RSA is working on a number of initiatives, including changing the names on certain campus spaces, creating a panel on Ramadan, and providing food for students during finals.
- Grace Hiltner, SSCC member, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), said that the MCSA has been working on advocacy issues for those with disabilities. She further added that the response to the Native American Promise Plan resolution was less than ideal so it is possible that MCSA will provide a new statement on the issue. Finally, MCSA is continuing to advocate on behalf of transgender athletes on campus and partner with advocacy stakeholders on the issue.
- Karissa Grapes, SSCC member, Professional Student Government (PSG), said that PSG has been working with faculty on the absence policy related to COVID-19 excused absences as well as passing a lot of grants and working on accessibility for grants.
- Nick Wallenhorst, SSCC member, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), said that the MSA Campus Safety Committee has been meeting with representatives at the state legislature and city council to discuss action items from the MSafe committee report. Additionally, the Fight for \$15 ballot initiative was approved by 95% of campus voters. Finally, MSA passed several resolutions dealing with the University's requirements for standardized tests, a universal transit pass, diversity and equity training, and supporting Ukrainian international students.
- Scott Petty, ex-officio representative, Senate Committee on Finance and Planning (SCFP), reported that the committee recently had a discussion on the issue of century bonds, which the Board of Regents was currently discussing at the time of this meeting. Petty provided a [link](#) to the presentation.

5. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report (*Information*)

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Millican then presented her report which included notifying senators about an opportunity to serve on the selection committee for the Sexual Misconduct Hearing Committee, and asked senators to think about joining or recruiting peers to join.

6. Policy Review: Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*

Laura Knudson, assistant vice provost, Student Advocacy and Support, Office for Student Affairs (OSA)

Marlo Welshons, assistant to the provost, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost

Carrie Ryan Gallia, senior associate general counsel, Office of the General Counsel
Katie Jackson, director, Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, University of
Minnesota-Duluth

- [Memo on Student Conduct Code Changes/Updates](#)
- [Revised Draft of Student Conduct Code](#)

Motion: To approve the proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*.

Millican introduced the following individuals to present proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*:

- Laura Knudson, assistant vice provost, Student Advocacy and Support, Office for Student Affairs (OSA)
- Marlo Welshons, assistant to the provost, Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
- Carrie Ryan Gallia, senior associate general counsel, Office of the General Counsel
- Katie Jackson, director, Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution, University of Minnesota Duluth

The team presented a [slide deck](#), memo, and revised draft of the policy, and highlights were as follows:

- Comprehensive consulting with a broad number of University stakeholders has taken place since the spring of 2021. The hope is to bring the proposed revisions to the Board of Regents for approval in late spring 2022. Consultation has occurred on all five system campuses.
- The goal of the revisions is to make the code more developmental, educational, and equitable as much as possible within the confines of a policy.
- Key revisions identified in the memo included the following:
 - Educational cornerstone -- Added a purpose statement to the scope that actuates the University's identity as educators, and updates terminology throughout to reduce punitive tone while increasing the intent to both educate and develop students. Overall, added more development language into the guiding principles.
 - Overall DEI audit -- Incorporated the tenets of diversity, equity, and inclusion into the guiding principles, elucidated the commitment to helping all students understand the expectations of higher education institutions, removed non-inclusive language such as limited pronouns, and included a clear prohibition on discrimination.
 - Grouping of prohibited behaviors -- To aid readability, prohibitive behaviors were organized by type (General Behavior Prohibitions; Prohibited Behaviors Implicating Health, Safety or Property; and Prohibited Behaviors Interfering with University and Community Operations) and deleted or combined those that are repetitive. For example, combining the "Unauthorized Use of and Access to Facilities" behaviors, and moving "Rioting" into "Disruptive Behavior." Subdivision 5 from the previous version (Attempt to Injure or Defraud) and Subdivision 18 (Rioting) were removed as the content was incorporated into other existing subdivisions.

- Amnesty -- Updated the “amnesty” definition to bring it into alignment with other existing University policies and to clarify medical amnesty vs. amnesty for victims of sexual assault.
- Alternative resolution -- Referenced the opportunity for a spectrum of informal, restorative, and educational responses to reported concerns aside from formal adjudication.
- Scholastic dishonesty -- Updated the definition of scholastic dishonesty in alignment with national and local concerns specific to the unauthorized use of learning support platforms such as Chegg.
- Clarifications -- Clarified definitions on account of some of the most frequent quandaries faced by student conduct administrators. This includes, but is not limited to, the definition of a student and the scope and appropriateness of various outcomes.
- The code can be used as a basis for a spectrum of opportunities to resolve student issues, behaviors, and concerns.

Millican opened the floor to discussion and questions and highlights were as follows:

- Millican thanked the presenters for their broad consultation and willingness to incorporate suggested changes based on student feedback.
- Petty asked about violations of local, state, and federal law, and wondered if some of these provisions (such as those related to rioting and attempt to injure or defraud) were redundant. He asked if the University would further apply the code if a student violates a law. Ryan Gallia replied that the policy tends to list prohibited behaviors that are seen more frequently and serves as notice for students that these behaviors are prohibited. Knudson added that not all prohibited behaviors, such as property damage in a residence hall, will be reported to the police, even though it could be a violation of local law.
- Christopher Stallard, student senator, College of Science and Engineering (CSE), asked about the definition of Student Groups and if the language is currently in use or practice, to which Ryan Gallia replied that it reflects current practices of capturing all student groups on campus, both formal and informal.
- Leah Reiss, student senator, Law School, commented that in her experience in serving on student conduct panels, there has been a blurred line about scholastic dishonesty when it comes to contract cheating sites like Chegg or CourseHero. She added that further clarification would be helpful. Ryan Gallia said that they are having ongoing conversations about that topic.
- Millican stated that it is important for students to have good access to the language in these policies.
- Petty asked a question about dual status of a student and employee and Ryan Gallia clarified that the Student Conduct Code does not extend to an employee’s status.
- Millican asked if expulsion under the Student Conduct Code precludes an individual from coming back to the University as an employee and Ryan Gallia indicated that it does not.
- Stallard further commented that the suspension provision, even though rarely used, could be moved to a different section of the code. Welshons replied that she would check with the Office of the Board of Regents as it may be a stylistic choice on formatting.

Hearing no further discussion, a pending motion was made to approve the proposed revisions to the Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code*. The motion was seconded by Adam Sychla, student senator, College of Biological Sciences (CBS), a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

7. Procedures for Election of 2021-22 Student Senate Officers and Committee Members (Information)

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

1. Chair will call for nominations for the position.
 - a. Any 2021-22 student senator may nominate another student senator
 - b. Any 2021-22 student senator may nominate themselves
2. Chair will close nominations.
3. Each nominee will have 90 seconds to address the body.
 - a. Nominees may use this time to state their case for holding the position.
 - b. Nominees may not use their time to disparage any other nominee or student senator.
 - c. Senate staff will keep time and assist in signaling when time is up.
4. Any 2021-22 student senator may ask a question of the nominees.
 - a. There will be a limit of two questions, (first come, first serve) as recognized by the chair.
5. A vote will take place via electronic ballot on Zoom.
 - a. All voting student senators will vote for the name of their preferred candidate on the ballot and submit it to senate staff.
 - b. The senator with the most votes will be named the winner of the position.
6. If there is only one nominee for a position, the body may forgo the use of paper ballots and conduct the election via a voice vote.

Note: Student Senate Bylaws Article V, Section 3(a) states that, “The chair, vice chair, and ranking student senator shall be constituents of different campus student associations. In the event that no one is nominated for the vice chair or ranking student senator positions from different campus student associations, the position will be open to all qualified members of the Student Senate. The ranking student senator position is open to any senator. In each term, each of these three offices may only be filled by a senator from a different student organization than the previous term.”

8. Election of 2021-22 Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Vice Chair (Action)

Election by 2021-22 Student Senators only - Must be a constituent of a different campus student association than the chair. In the event that no one is nominated for the vice chair position from a different campus student association, the position will be open to all qualified members of the Student Senate.

Nick Wallenhorst was elected as vice chair of the Student Senate for the remainder of the 2021-22 academic year.

9. Resolution Concerning Presidential “Office Hours” (Discussion)

Mattea Allert, ranking student senator, SSCC

Scott Petty, student senator, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS)

Millican introduced Petty and Mattea Allert, ranking student senator, to present a resolution concerning presidential “office hours.” Millican indicated that the resolution is being presented for information at this meeting with a potential for approval at the next meeting of the Student Senate. Petty explained that the purpose of the resolution is to allow for students to have better access to the Office of the President through regular office hours. He noted that former president Eric Kaler held these sessions often but that they were oftentimes utilized by students in governance who already hold higher than average access to administrators. Petty further stated that it is understandable that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this practice logistically and hopes to bring the opportunity back to campus.

Sychla and Stallard voiced their support for the resolution and opined that geographic diversity would also be appreciated for students on system campuses as well as the three campuses at the Twin Cities. Petty agreed with that suggestion. A point was further raised that perhaps it would make sense to amend Student Senate governance documents to require that the president stand for questions each time they attend a Student Senate meeting, similar to how it is included at University Senate meetings.

10. Old Business

There was no old business.

Henry Hubred, student senator, University of Minnesota Morris, provided a comment that members of MCSA were disappointed by the administrative response to the Resolution on the Native American Promise Plan and stated that they would perhaps come forward at a future meeting with a further statement to that effect.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office