
The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

2021-22 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Minutes: No. 1

Thursday, September 30, 2021

2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

The first meeting of the University Senate for 2021-22 was convened on September 30, 2021, online via Zoom, and was also live-streamed and recorded on [YouTube](#). At the time of this meeting, there were 254 voting members of the University Senate. 210 were present.

1. University Senate Call to Order

President Joan T. A. Gabel

President Joan Gabel called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. Motion to Approve Special Rule (*Action by the University Senate*)

Professor Ned Patterson, chair, Senate Consultative Committee

The Senate Consultative Committee proposes the following special rule during this meeting:

- Speakers are limited to two minutes each time they are recognized.

The clerk will interject when speakers have thirty seconds left and when time is up.

A $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of those present and voting is required to approve the special rule.

Motion: To approve the special rule.

Approved.

3. Administrative Responses to University Senate Actions (*Information for the University Senate*)

None pending.

4. Tribute to Deceased Members of the University Community (5 minutes)

Faculty/Staff

Betty Agee

Executive Secretary
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1927-2021

Brent Anderson
Senior Laboratory Technician
Natural Resources Research Institute
University of Minnesota Duluth
1956-2021

Kim Anderson
Student Finance Counselor
Undergraduate Education
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1956-2021

Frederick Asher
Professor
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1941-2021

Geoffrey Barker
One Stop Counselor
Undergraduate Education
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1957-2021

Adele Donchenko
Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1923-2021

Kevin Ehrman-Solberg
Teaching Assistant
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1987-2021

Gerald Erickson
Professor
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1927-2020

Evelyn Franklin
Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1927-2020

William Gleason
Associate Professor
Medical School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1945-2020

Glenn Harris
Electrician Foreman
UMD Maintenance, Repair, and Operations
University of Minnesota Duluth
1935-2021

Joyce Hegstrom
Financial Services
Carlson School of Management
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1954-2020

Roger Hooke
Professor
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1939-2021

Qadri Ismail
Associate Professor
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1961-2021

Floris King
Professor
School of Nursing
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1927-2021

David Kirchknopf
Operations Supervisor
Facilities Management
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

1949-2021

Mirislav Konvicka
Health Care Supervisor
Boynton Health
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1956-2021

Jessica Lindley-Curtice
Program/Project Specialist
College of Design
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1986-2021

Sharon Ling
Research Assistant
School of Public Health
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1995-2021

Carl Malmquist
Professor
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1931-2021

Judith McCall
Buyer
U of M Bookstore
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1938-2021

Michael Michlin
Researcher 6
College of Education and Human Development
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1944-2021

Larry Miller
Professor
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1939-2021

Robert Miller
Professor

Medical School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1939-2021

Stephen Miller
Finance Professional 2
Undergraduate Education
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1982-2021

Sara Ojard
Instructor
Swenson College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Duluth
1975-2020

Bernadell Olson
Executive Secretary
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1939-2020

Claire Olson
Development Officer
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1927-2021

Walter Petrykowski
Maintenance/Operations Supervisor
Medical School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1921-2021

Maria Pintado
Associate Professor
School of Dentistry
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1935-2021

Virginia Provencher
Executive Assistant
Facilities Management
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1936-2021

Craig Sandler
Marketing & Communications Professional
College of Education and Human Development
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1992-2021

Henry Schumer
Research Professional 4
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1960-2021

Andrea Scott
Department Director
The Graduate School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1948-2021

Yasukata Sibuya
Professor
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1930-2021

Larry Skogland
Bookstore Department Supervisor
UMD Bookstore
University of Minnesota Duluth
1960-2021

Cheryl Smolnikar
Senior Administrative Specialist
Natural Resources Research Institute
University of Minnesota Duluth
1944-2021

Bert Stromberg, Jr.
Professor
College of Veterinary Medicine
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1944-2021

Mary Suek
Library Assistant 2
Law School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

1949-2021

Deborah Swackhamer
Program Director
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1954-2021

James Turman
Assistant Vice Provost
Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1947-2021

Gilberto Vazquez Valle
Adjunct
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1958-2021

Milkeessaa Waltajjii
Finance Professional 3
Law School
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1974-2021

Harry Watts
Associate Professor
College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
University of Minnesota Duluth
1936-2021

Darrick Zarling
Researcher 5
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities
1968-2021

Students

Abigail Anderson
School of Nursing
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Tristan Kotlicky
College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Aidan Zent
Swenson College of Science and Engineering
University of Minnesota Duluth

5. Senator Responsibilities and Orientation (*Information for the University Senate*)

Professor Ned Patterson, chair, Senate Consultative Committee

Professor Ned Patterson, chair, Senate Consultative Committee, provided an [orientation](#) for senators. Members were also asked to familiarize themselves with [additional resources](#) pertaining to the operation of the senate.

6. Approval of Minutes (*Action by the University Senate*)

Professor Rachna Shah, clerk, University Senate

Motion: To approve the minutes from the University/Faculty Senate Meeting on [April 22, 2021](#).

Approved.

7. President's Report

President Joan T.A. Gabel

President Gabel gave her report, which included the following points:

- She welcomed Professor Rachna Shah to the position of clerk of the senate.
- This year saw the largest and most diverse freshman and transfer class in many decades; Gabel thanked Admissions, Housing and Residence Life, advising, the colleges, etc.
- Get the Vax 2.0:
 - As of September 29, 2021, 87.7% of students had responded, and of those, 97.4% said that they had been vaccinated. Students had until October 8 to respond.
 - As of September 29, 2021, 97.9% of faculty and staff had responded to the attestation requirement, and of those, 94.8% had attested to being vaccinated.
 - The University is advocating for testing sites on or near campus at all 5 system campuses. At the time of this meeting, no testing sites were available near the Rochester campus.
- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will no longer do contact tracing for the University. Officials are working on a systemwide protocol for expectations around notifying contacts in the case of a possible or confirmed exposure to covid-19.
- The Systemwide Strategic Plan (MPact 2025) has been remarkably helpful navigating through the pandemic. Many components proceed with inspiring progress because of partnerships. Some examples include:
 - Campus safety: The M Safe Implementation Team will make recommendations based on the Alexander Report to Gabel, University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD) Chief Matt Clark, Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations Myron Frans, and the Campus Safety Committee by the end of fall

2021. The administration is also working to address the uptick in Dinkytown crime.

- Student success: The President's Initiative on Student Mental Health (PRISMH) is hard at work using a public health approach to address issues of student mental health.
- Fiscal resources: Frans and Ken Horstman, vice president, Office for Human Resources, were in active consultation with senate committees, and were slated to report to the Board of Regents (BOR) the following week.
- Equity and diversity: The Administrative Policy: *Namings* policy will go to the BOR in December 2021; whether for review or action will depend on how consultation goes.

8. Questions to the President

President Joan T.A. Gabel

Members asked the following questions:

- Mattea Allert, student senator from the College of Biological Sciences (CBS) said that over the summer, she had been tasked with helping organize an orientation for student senators. A University employee who had agreed to facilitate equity and diversity training for senators had proposed separating student senators by race during this section of the orientation. Allert said she had written to the Office of the President and the Board of Regents about this issue, and asked whether the president endorsed separating senators by race. Gabel responded that the process was intended to create an environment where people could raise their concerns comfortably; she acknowledged that not everyone agrees with this approach, but the intent was to make people feel comfortable, not to segregate.
- Scott Petty, student senator from the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), noted that the University had made exceptional returns on the endowment, and asked the president how these endowment accounts are distributed across the institution, and how the unexpectedly good investment return would impact decision making. Gabel said that the University was pleased that the investments had performed well this year. She explained that the endowment reflects philanthropy that is almost exclusively directed or restricted in that they come in as part of a gift structure where the donor is giving to a very specific thing. Therefore, she said, good investment returns yield better support for the specific programs or initiatives that the original funds were directed toward. A very large part of those investments support student scholarships and faculty research, she added.
- Ioana Pribiag, faculty senator from the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), asked about the accuracy of the data on the University's covid dashboard, given that it only includes tests taken on campus. She asked whether there was any way to have a broader picture, and a more constant stream of information? Gabel replied that there are operational limitations to this. She noted that the University is tracking the numbers off campus and this informs decision making, even though it is not reported on the University's dashboard. David Golden, director of public health, Boynton Health, added that of those testing at Boynton, 75% are symptomatic or have a known exposure, and the positivity rate is still holding at below 3%. If the University began doing mandatory testing across the board, the rate

would be even lower. In addition, he said, MDH reports any notifications they receive that a University student has tested positive. This does not include self tests or some pharmacies, but any positive cases that MDH knows about are reported to the University.

- Claire Halpert, CLA faculty senator, asked whether there were plans to offer rapid testing options at the University, especially given the educational implications of students needing to isolate while awaiting test results. Gabel acknowledged that there is a balance between the accuracy of PCR tests and the expediency of rapid tests. Golden said they are working to increase testing capacity and currently there is about a 24-hour turnaround time.
- Mary Garry, faculty senator from the Medical School, asked Gabel to highlight how the new anti-crime efforts are impacting [earlier discussions about demilitarization](#). Gabel described efforts around reducing crime in Dinkytown, including adding safety ambassadors, increased lighting, and increased UMPD patrols. Regarding demilitarization, she said that the audit of UMPD's weapons and equipment that was called for in the resolution is underway, and that officials will work with the Campus Safety Committee on definitions around demilitarization.

9. Provost's Report

Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson

Next, Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson gave her report, covering the following topics:

- Covid-19: All Twin Cities classrooms have HVAC systems that meet CDC guidelines; some have been augmented to meet those requirements. N95 masks are readily available, as is testing.
- New leadership:
 - Alejandra Peña-Gutiérrez, director of the Weisman Art Museum, effective November 29, 2021
 - Dr. Andrew G. Alleyne, dean of the College of Science and Engineering (CSE), effective January 10, 2022
 - Dr. Nisha D. Botchwey, dean of the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, effective January 10, 2022
- Upcoming initiatives:
 - Professor Will Durfee will chair a committee on curriculum reform.
 - Professor Phil Buhlmann will chair a task force on faculty behavior in graduate education, which will be coordinated with a group working on broader issues around faculty behavior.
 - A task force has been charged to discuss the academic calendar with an eye to increasing community and belonging.

10. Questions to the Provost

Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson

Provost Croson then opened up the floor for questions. Mattea Allert asked what percentage of domestic Black male undergraduates are involved in athletics at the University. Croson said that she did not know, but promised to follow up with that information.

Scott Petty asked why the task force on graduate advising only has two student seats, when the petition asking for the task force asked for three student seats. Croson said she believed there were four seats, but said she would verify and follow up.

11. Senate Consultative Committee Report

Professor Ned Patterson, chair, Senate Consultative Committee

Professor Ned Patterson, chair, Senate Consultative Committee (SCC), said that the SCC had heard and amplified a number of concerns related to covid-19, including writing a letter of support for the BOR with regard to the student vaccination requirement.

He reminded members that SCC leadership meet regularly with the president and provost, and that he and Professor Colleen Flaherty Manchester, SCC vice chair, were members of the President's Emergency Planning Committee. He encouraged senators to reach out to them to make use of those avenues of communication.

The SCC also consulted with administrators on the PEAK Initiative.

Another ongoing initiative is an effort to address concerns of fixed-term faculty and P&A instructors and ensure their concerns are adequately represented in governance.

12. Motion to Suspend the Rules (*Action by the University Senate*)

Etty DeVeaux, chair, Senate Committee on Committees

Motion: The Senate Committee on Committees moves to suspend University Senate Rules Article II, Section 2(c), and immediately appoint Professor Lynette Renner as chair of the Campus Committee on Student Behavior (CCSB) for a term ending on June 30, 2022.

Note: This vote requires a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Comments: As a result of difficulty securing a chair for the Campus Committee on Student Behavior (CCSB) for the 2021-22 academic year, the Committee on Committees would like to allow Professor Renner to serve in that role for another year, despite having served the normal maximum of six consecutive years on the committee.

Approved (149 ayes, 5 nays, 20 abstentions).

13. Proposed New Administrative Policy: *Discrimination (Discussion by the University Senate)*

Tina Marisam, director, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

With the aid of a [PowerPoint](#), Tina Marisam, director, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA), explained the proposed new [Administrative Policy: Discrimination](#). She noted that a discussion would be held today, with a vote at the next regular University Senate meeting, on November 4, 2021.

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate, revealed that earlier that day, the Student Senate had passed a resolution advocating for caste to be included in the University's anti-discrimination statement. Marisam said that it has similar characteristics to those that define the other protected groups (it is established at birth, it is not changeable, etc.) and that there is a national conversation going on around this issue. She expressed willingness to look into this. She added that if EOAA received a case of caste-based discrimination currently, they would certainly look at other protected characteristics that may apply, as there may be some protection already.

Ned Patterson asked about the informal process described in the policy. He wondered whether this happens when a complainant chooses not to pursue a formal complaint, and also if a complainant requesting an investigation automatically leads to one. Marisam explained that the informal resolution option is a collection of strategies for trying to solve the problem without an official case, and can happen due to complainant preference; when the conduct does not rise to the level of a policy violation but is still harmful and merits action; or when there is intersection with academic freedom and/or free speech issues. If a complainant wants an investigation, she said, it usually happens unless the conduct would not be a policy violation.

Patterson then asked whether an appeal out of this process would go to the Senate Judicial Committee (SJC). Marisam responded that the appellate officers in discrimination cases are the same as in sexual misconduct cases, which is not the SJC. However, if discipline is imposed upon faculty, she said, they could choose to appeal it at the SJC.

David Andow, CFANS faculty senator, observed that some of the changes to the Title IX laws under the Trump administration raised the burden on the complainant, and asked if any of the proposed changes in this policy would do so. Marisam acknowledged that some elements of Title IX are not best practices and may inhibit reporting, and raise the burden. However, she said, while many parts of the discrimination policy mirror the policy on sexual misconduct, the proposed new policy does not include the pieces required by Title IX regulations that are burdensome and not useful.

14. University Senate Old Business

None

15. University Senate New Business

None

16. University Senate Adjournment

President Gabel adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.