



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University Senate Consultative Committee
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MINUTES
SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
AND
DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT KELLER

November 5, 1987
12:45 - 2:45 p.m.
Regents Room, Morrill Hall

Members present: Tim Allison, Sonia Arreaza, Mark Brenner, Charles Campbell, Richard Goldstein, Lynnette Mullins, Ronald Phillips, W. Phillips Shively (Chair), Carrie Simenson, Mark Umland, James VanAllstine, Bruce Vandal, Paul Wilson (alt. for Joan Bannister), Valentine Zweber).

Guests: Judy Grew (Student Body President), President Kenneth H. Keller, Chris Niskanen (The Minnesota Daily), Barbara Muesing (Secretary to the Board of Regents), June Perkins (SSCC adviser), Marsha Riebe (assistant to the president), Maureen Smith (University Relations).

1. The minutes of the October 15 meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Reports.

A. Student SCC. Mr. Vandal summarized the morning's agenda.

B. Finance. Professor Brenner reported for Professor Clark that SFC has learned all major library remodeling and new construction action is suspended until several long-range decisions are made.

B. SCC-FCC Chair.

(1) Professor Shively reported that, as per the direction from the October 29 Campus Assembly meeting, he would ask Professor Richard Jones, Chair of the Student Academic Support Services Committee, to ask his committee to develop further information on adding 'plus' and 'minus' to the grading system, so the Assembly will feel prepared to take final action on the conversion at its February meeting.

(2) The FCC at its morning meeting steered several Faculty Development Committee items to one or more of several Senate committees.

3. Role of Chair of the Student Senate.

SCC members had received in advance a motion to amend the Senate constitution to define the position of Student Senate Chair; SSCC sought the support of the full SCC. The students' purpose is to answer two needs: identify a spokesperson for the student body of the University of Minnesota system, and specify in an enduring way the responsibilities of the officer. The SSCC motion was to amend Article III, Sec. 6.b. by adding the following language:

"The Chair of the Student Senate

(a) Shall be the official spokesperson of the University Student Senate;

(b) Sets the Student Senate agenda, to be approved by the Student Consultative Committee;

(c) Organizes and chairs the Student Lobbying Advisory Committee;

(d) Is the University's representative to the Student Advisory Council;

(e) Is an ex officio member of the Senate Consultative Committee."

The SCC agreed that the officer would have voting ex officio SCC membership, just as does the vice chair of the University Senate.

On a voice vote, without dissent, the SCC approved the motion. (It will be referred to Committee on Committees with the intent of submitting it to the Winter Quarter Senate meeting.)

4. Rescheduling the Committee's visit to the Crookston Campus.

If it is convenient for UMC, the SCC will hold a meeting at that campus on April 28, 1988.

5. Faculty and student relationships with the Board of Regents.

Professor Shively summarized the FCC's efforts over the past year to establish a businesslike relationship with the Regents. At the Regents-FCC quarterly dinner meeting last spring, a recommendation emerged from Regents to initiate monthly half-hour sessions, one between FCC and Regents, and one between student representatives and Regents, preceding the start of Regents committee meetings. The student meeting would take the place of the current system of two student representatives sitting in a non-voting capacity on each of the Regents' committees.

Mr. Vandal asked Judy Grew, MSA president and student representative to the Regents, to present the student point of view. Ms. Grew said students have taken to heart the problems with the student rep system cited in the report of last winter's external governance reviewers. Student reps want to be and be seen as accountable. Students differentiate between these problems and the issue of whether faculty should have representatives on the Regents committees. Faculty are the academic leadership at the university and are substantively involved in governance. Because students cannot be involved either as extensively or as intensively in governance as faculty, they need another kind of connection -- a clientele check -- to the University's decision-making process.

Ms. Grew reported for the record that when the Regents discussed tuition refund policy last spring it was Regent Hilke, not a student rep, who introduced the question of timely distribution of course syllabi. She asked that students be participants in any discussions with the Regents aimed at changing student representation.

Professor Shively remarked that The Board of Regents, with its official and unofficial membership distribution including a student regent chair, is in fact the state's main consumer check on University activity. Two separate issues are (1) should there be faculty and/or student representation, and (2) if so, what kind? Professor Brenner added FCC's interest is in having the voice of the academic community reach the Board meetings.

Mr. Vandal and Ms. Grew pointed out that the dynamics of Regents meetings sometimes change the direction of action.

Professor Phillips foresaw that monthly half-hour faculty and student meetings with the Regents would valuably lift up the whole governance system for recognition and contribution.

Ms. Grew and Mr. Vandal reiterated their conviction that student representation to Regents committees is essential.

Professor Shively announced that FCC would again address the issue at its November 19 meeting, which SSCC members would be welcome to attend. He stated that the FCC would not be satisfied with a form of representation very different in effect from that of the students. Following the meeting on the 19th, FCC will communicate with the Regents; he suggested the students might wish to do the same.

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6. AIDS testing policy in the Dental School.

President Keller reported in response to a student complaint made at the October 29 Senate meeting that the student had been tested for AIDS prior to getting service at the Dental Clinic. He has learned that no one is being refused treatment but the Clinic, following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and in contrast to the rest of the Health Sciences, tests patients from higher risk populations prior to treating them. (In the reported incident, the student's African home country was on the higher risk list.) The president is not at ease with the differential handling of patients and will ask experts to examine both the legal and personal ramifications of the current practice.

7. Wilson and Walter Library needs.

Interim University Librarian John Howe has presented a preliminary report on Wilson's near-exhaustion of space and in December will present a complete report. Easing Wilson Library's space crisis is item #6 on the capital request; Walter Library renovation is ranked lower pending a more complete libraries plan. He will inquire about the hold allegedly put on \$250,000 promised for Walter two years ago for improvements such as security and fire alarms.

C. Physical Plant Planning: shifts in space uses.

President Keller wants the space management issue solved; subsequently, individual problems will be solvable. In the meantime, a domino arrangement means all related space shifts must be solved at one time for any one to be solved. The accepted plan to move the International Student Center to the University YMCA building (corner of University and 15th), is, consequently, still on the table.

7. Other topics.

In very brief exchanges, SCC members and President Keller touched on (a) the Progressive Student Organization lawsuit, (b) search for Vice President for External Relations, (c) League of Women Voters' planned on-campus presidential debate in October, 1988, (d) search for Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs with primary task of Minority Education, (e) impact of the stock market fall on University endowment (PUF dollars were in lowest risk investments and unaffected), and (f) employee health insurance plans.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Poppele
Executive Assistant