

Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)
September 27, 2019
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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.

[In these minutes: Office of Conflict Resolution (OCR) Annual Report; IT Support for Goals and Priorities; SSCC Updates; Debrief - Student Senate Retreat; Plant Pathology Student Organization Resolution on Graduate Fees]

PRESENT: Amy Ma (chair), Isaiah Wray Ogren (ranking student senator), Madison Anderson, Josh Westfield, Nathan Carlson, Austin Berger, Rachel Kieffer, Janet Nguyen (proxy for Berger), Paul Hendrickx (proxy for Singh)

REGRETS: Manpreet Singh, Austin Berger, Josh Lesser, Sam Shepherd

ABSENT: Otto Johnson

GUESTS: Tamar Gronvall, director, Office of Conflict Resolution (OCR); Trenton Raygor, business relationship manager, Office of Information Technology (OIT)

OTHERS: None

Chair Amy Ma welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

1. Office of Conflict Resolution (OCR) Annual Report - Ma introduced Tamar Gronvall, director, Office of Conflict Resolution (OCR), who provided an overview of OCR. She presented the committee with the office's [annual report](#) and [flyer](#) and stated that OCR provides both formal and informal conflict resolution services to non-bargaining unit University faculty, staff and students who are experiencing employment-related conflicts. The OCR serves all system campuses and is a neutral, independent office. Gronvall clarified that OCR should not be confused with the Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) which offers informal conflict resolution services to resolve students' university-based problems and concerns.

Gronvall continued by stating that OCR provides three types of services, informal services, formal services, and training. Informal services, such as facilitated mediation, can help to resolve employee grievances or other problems resulting in conflict in the workplace. For more serious concerns, a formal grievance service is available which is a much longer process and can culminate in a peer hearing panel. Once a panel hears a grievance, a report is issued with a recommendation to go to the office of the Provost. Finally, Gronvall stated that training is offered to individual departments and units upon request and do training on conflict competency.

Isaiah Ogren asked if OCR has any relationship with the Office for Community Standards (OCS) or office for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA). Gronvall stated that her office does not conduct investigations, but in cases where an investigation is appropriate, such as sexual assault, the case is referred to EOAA and possibly the student conduct process through OCS. OCR will also refer parties to other appropriate resources or departments as necessary. Ma asked if OCR has authority on all five system campuses. Gronvall replied that yes, she deals with issues, often by phone, on each campus. Ma followed up by asking what OCR does to spread awareness of the office. Gronvall said that she often meets with several of the Senate consultative committees and sends its annual report to several entities and groups across the University.

2. IT Support for Goals and Priorities - Ma introduced Trenton Raygor, business relationship manager, Office of Information Technology (OIT), to discuss priorities related to information technology that students might have for OIT. OIT conducts about fifty focus groups annually with groups such as the SSCC. He asked for committee member feedback and ideas for improving the student experience at the University. He stated that in the previous year, the University has worked to improve IT capabilities in several ways including upgrading classroom technology and personnel in Morris, easier processes for accessing the WiFi network on smart devices, and improved campus and student data security and privacy.

Josh Westfield commented that much of the technology in Morris has improved and appreciates the new director's work to upgrade classrooms and student technology. Ma asked how much OIT works with the senate governance structure on a regular basis to hear about concerns. Raygor said that the director of OIT is engaged on a monthly basis with the Senate Committee on Information Technology. Ma expressed her desire to see more resources dedicated to online learning, more affordable e-textbooks, and better accessibility for students with disabilities. Raygor responded that textbook affordability is a priority for the department this year and with the recent switch from Moodle to Canvass for online learning, it has become much more accessible for students with disabilities. Raygor continued by stating that there has been no further update with the Google suite issue that causes accessibility issues to system campuses that use a different subdomain than the standard "@umn.edu." This is a senior leadership issue and one that Google is currently incapable of resolving.

Kieffer asked if OIT was in charge of inclusive access programs for textbooks and commented that they were a great resource. Raygor replied that he was unsure but hypothesized that it was run by individual colleges. Nathan Carlson expressed his and other students' concerns over the new mandatory DUO authentication security features. He said that it is difficult to change your settings if you get a new cell phone or device and thinks that students have to re-authenticate too often. Raygor said that this is a key component to securing data at the University but will take the feedback to his group about making it easier to re-authenticate in the event of a lost device or other error.

3. SSCC Updates - Ma asked each SSCC member to provide an update from their respective group and the responses were as follows:

- Ogren stated that he is working on a resolution to address non-resident, non-reciprocity (NRNR) tuition increases. He plans to present information at the October 3, 2019 Student Senate meeting regarding the resolution and is looking to ultimately create an NRNR advisory committee constructed of faculty, senior administrators, and students. The goal is to minimize unpredictable fluctuations in the rate of increase in this tuition. Additionally, he mentioned that there will be public interviews for the search for the new provost and encouraged students to attend if possible.
- Nathan Carlson from the Rochester Student Association (RSA) stated that they recently began accepting applications for at-large positions and first-year representatives. Rochester is hiring a new Student Activities director and will be having student input sessions. RSA is also working on changing their bylaws to streamline their voting and fund request processes.
- Josh Westfield said that the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) is working on a resolution regarding paperless classrooms which involves allowing the ability to use paperless note taking devices and providing open source textbooks and e-books. Additionally, they are in the process of creating a Native American Tuition Waiver panel with the Circle of Nations Indigenous Association at Morris to discuss the waiver and its impact on students. Finally, they are placing students on four search committees for various administrative roles.
- Sam Shepherd stated that the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA) will be having a multicultural mixer event today. UMDSA will also be filling six freshmen representative seats in the UMDSA as well as holding an “Advising-on-the-Go” event on October 9, 2019.
- Janet Nguyen said that the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) said that they are working on their “Blue Jeans, Go Green” initiative which works to repurpose donated denim as cotton to be donated again. MSA will have a resolution regarding dining and hope to have it complete prior to the next Board of Regents meeting. Finally, they are working with local neighborhood associations regarding the newly proposed Dinkytown tower and addressing affordable housing concerns.
- Madison Anderson said that the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) recently elected her as the new COGS representative to the SSCC. COGS had their first meeting the previous day and they were mostly putting together various internal committees.
- Paul Hendrickx stated that the the Crookston Student Association (CSA) president and vice-president met with the chancellor to discuss the opening and closing hours of the Eagles Nest (food court). The hours had been changed this year and many students were displeased with the changes. Also, they discussed how they can make campus-wide emails more effective for student events on campus.
- Kieffer said that the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) held its first meeting last week and discussed issues such as appointing students to the Student Service Fee committee, lack of testing space at the Disability Resource Center, and changes to the administrative policy on student employees.

- Ma stated that she has been working with the Student Advisory Council through the Department of Higher Education on the issue of food insecurity. Governor Tim Walz will be making a proclamation that October 24th will be “College Hunger Awareness Day” in Minnesota. Individual colleges and university systems will be doing some communications and programming around it. Additionally, the group is looking at addressing emergency aid funds for students.

4. Debrief - Student Senate Retreat - Ma then went on to discuss Student Senate retreat and debrief with committee members about how they felt it went. The committee discussed a survey that was sent to all in attendance to provide feedback on the various aspects of the retreat. Overall, members thought the retreat went well and enjoyed the programming and speakers. Ogren commented that in the future, it would be good for speakers to focus on how it is best to make a shift from advocacy work to governance work.

5. Approval of the Docket for the Special Meeting of the Student Senate on Thursday, October 3, 2019 - Ma provided an overview of the [docket](#) for the Special Meeting of the Student Senate on Thursday, October 3, 2019. Ogren also further described the draft resolution on NRNR tuition. Ogren moved to approve the docket for the October 3, 2019 meeting of the Student Senate. Nguyen seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

6. Plant Pathology Student Organization Resolution on Graduate Fees - Ma provided the following [Resolution](#) on Student Fees brought forward by the Plant Pathology Graduate Student organization. She wanted members to be aware that this may be an issue coming forward.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office