

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 9, 2013

[In these minutes: TCF Bank Discussion; Vote on Student Services Fees Committee Resolutions; TC Student Affairs updates; New Business.]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Patricia Jones Whyte (chair), Lauren Beach, Thomas Bilder, Matt Fredericks, Peter Haeg, nader Helmy, Joyce Holl, Shivani Kushwaha, Kristen Lewis, Meghan Sable, Michael Stebleton, Brandt Tharp, Carlos Torelli, Amelious Whyte, Lanqiu Wu

GUESTS: Megan Sweet, Cathy Morrison, Beth Lingren Clark

REGRETS: Lisa Erwin, Teddi Grego, Brittany Link, Liza Meredith, Bryan Oliver Smith, Nichole Thomas, Kendre Turonie

WELCOME

Patricia Jones Whyte, chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and called for introductions.

TCF BANK DISCUSSION

Beth Lingren Clark, Director of Orientation and First-Year Programs (OFYP), and Cathy Morrison, Director of the U Card Office, attended the meeting to discuss the University's relationship with TCF Bank.

They distributed a Gold Book, which is a publication distributed to students at orientation for members to view. Ms. Lingren Clark directed members to the section that covers banking and TCF. There has been formal sponsorship with TCF since 1995. She further discussed some of the ways that finances are addressed with students at first-year programs:

- Financial Aid Counseling is provided at both freshman and Transfer orientations.
- Optional Session: Managing the Cost of College.
- A Parent's session from One Stop.
- TCF provided content regarding managing money and preventing identity theft.
- There is a session designed for out-of-state students.

Ms. Morrison explained that the U Card Office works closely with OFYP and TCF Bank to ensure that the programs are successful. She emphasized that financial literacy is taken seriously and mentioned the online programs that were piloted this year with incoming students. The agreement with TCF Bank has 5 different parts and the U Card Office oversees the part involving the U Card checking account. She emphasized that campus banking is very different from the private sector and explained some of the aspects of having TCF Bank on campus:

- A TCF checking account can be linked to the U Card, but this is completely optional and in no way mandatory.
- TCF makes a financial commitment to the University and these funds are used for scholarships and sponsorships for student and non-student groups and events.
- There is no monthly fee for any active University member, there are no hidden fees, and though there are overdraft fees they are not hidden.
- The U Card Office monitors all TCF printed materials and any content that is University related.
- Ms. Lingren Clark added that many Big Ten schools have similar relationships with banks and the sponsorship agreements vary by institution.
- Ms. Morrison emphasized that the student identification cards that are Visa backed credit cards raise more issues than the pin-protected cards that are offered by TCF Bank.

Members discussed the following concerns:

- Mr. Fredericks stated that he is concerned about the negative media attention that has been drawn to the University as a result of this relationship. He further explained that he would like to see this relationship continue in a less predatory manner. How can this relationship continue with a nationally positive perspective? Ms. Morrison agreed that there needs to be educational communication as to the positives related to the TCF Bank relationship with the University.
- Ms. Morrison explained that students fill out the TCF contractual agreement with a representative that explains it line-by-line. They are required to initial and check to receive overdraft protection. If they do not want it, the representative gives a further explanation. Students are given a one-page flyer defining over-draft protection and they can opt-in or opt-out at any time after they have created the account.
- Mr. Helmy, a student member, reported that he felt rushed in regard to signing up for a TCF account during orientation. He felt as though he needed to “opt-out” of getting an account. Ms. Morrison stated that she understood that this process could feel overwhelming and assured members that that is not the environment they want to establish.
- Ms. Morrison informed members that next year, students would be able to create U Cards by uploading a photo and mailing forms into the office. This process will be clearly separate from opening a TCF account.

VOTE ON SSFC RESOLUTIONS

Megan Sweet returned to the committee to receive a vote on the resolutions that were presented at the September meeting. The resolutions were also distributed via email before both meetings. Ms. Sweet reviewed them with members again.

The committee members present unanimously supported the resolutions in a vote by voice.

STUDENT AFFAIRS TC UPDATE

Mr. Whyte informed members that Homecoming events were successful and the concert was sold out. He then updated members on other aspects relating to Student Affairs in the Twin Cities:

- The data from Alcohol Edu and Buttonwood should be released within the next month.
- 2,049 rides have been given by the Gopher Chauffeur, which is an increase from the previous year and demonstrates the value of this service.
- Boynton Health Service is exploring alternative ways to communicate with students regarding mental health issues.
- Student Legal Service, Community Relations, and Student Housing are organizing a housing fair and gathering information regarding where to live, what to ask, and how to find a compatible roommate.
- There are websites that profit from displaying (police) mug shots and in some cases they are only removed after collecting a fee, even if there was no conviction. Student Legal Services is investigating how people can have mug shots removed that should not be on the site.
- Grief counseling is available through the University and this is important in light of recent student deaths.
- The Office for Student Engagement will be offering Strengths Coaches to help students use and communicate their strengths as determined by the Strengths Finder tool.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Whyte reported that she met with Danita Brown Young, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, and the following topics were discussed as areas of focus: student experience, engagement, and development. Vice Provost Brown also noted other topics for consideration:

- Campus safety is a concern in terms of crime and transportation involving pedestrians, cars, and bicycles.
- The connection between staff and faculty retention and student retention.
- Services available to commuter students.

- Student groups are registered, not recognized by the University. How can the University ensure students are gaining leadership skills through these groups?
- Leadership skill development for athletes.
- Greek organization involvement with the University.
- Welcome Week – establishing a symbolic walk on the Scholar’s Walk to represent the student academic journey.

Ms. Whyte announced that the next committee meeting would be held as a joint meeting with the Social Concerns Committee on November 4th. She will also attend the October meeting of the EAD Committee to discuss income-based diversity and she asked members to contact her with any topics they wish her to bring to this discussion. She then asked members to raise topics for future meetings:

- Noise on the mall during class times. Who is in charge of these events? A faculty member that emailed Ms. Whyte raised this topic.
- Student leave policy relating to birth and/or adoption. Is there a set of policies that guarantee graduate, professional, and/or post-doctoral students the ability to leave for this reason without academic or employment repercussions?
- Ms. Whyte noted that absence issues are a concern including FMLA and Veteran services.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Whyte adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office