
The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Classroom Advisory Subcommittee (CAS) January 30, 2023 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: Conversation with Provost Croson; Committee Discussion; Questionnaire]

PRESENT: James Cotner (chair), Todd Arnold, Keith Brown, Kerry Ebert, Tracey Hammell, Jennifer Huh, Dave Hutton, Roberta Kehne, Sarah Kussow, Jeff Lindgren, Sandy Mand, Shrivas Mangalampalli, Connor Prok, Mike Weimerskirch

REGRETS: Matt Anderson

GUESTS: Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson

1. Conversation with Provost Croson

Professor Jim Cotner, chair, welcomed Executive Vice President and Provost Rachel Croson. He explained the committee's goal of creating a classroom/learning 10-year space plan. explained the goal and asked for Croson's input on factors that affect space needs. Croson provided the following information:

- Each campus has an enrollment goal to achieve by 2025. For the Twin Cities campus, the target undergraduate population is 33,000 undergraduates. Pre-pandemic, the Twin Cities campus was hovering above 31,000; now that has fallen to closer to 30,000.
- Croson said she did not anticipate growing tenure stream faculty much along with this increased enrollment; there might be some growth in non-tenure track faculty.
- Another goal is to decrease class size, particularly in mathematics, writing, labs, etc. Moving forward, there may be a need for more smaller instructional spaces.
- There is a trend toward delivering large lectures online, with discussion sections or labs in person. This may affect the need for large lecture spaces.
- The Work. With Flexibility Program continues to evolve. It is worth thinking about how much office space will be needed going forward. Croson said she felt it was likely that over the next five years, there may be some ability to convert some office space into instructional space.
- Officials are still trying to find the balance of technology in classrooms. Croson anticipates that going forward, most classes will be either completely online or in person. There might be some options for people to Zoom in if they can't make it, but the expectation of a fully hybrid model is fading.

- Diversity continues to be a priority. Spaces can help with that goal if they are designed to be accessible and feel welcoming to all kinds of people.

Jeff Lindgren asked whether there was a desire in the administration to have a classroom plan. Croson replied that input from those on the ground is important, but the plan must be nimble.

Cotner thanked Croson for her time and input, and she departed.

2. Committee Discussion

Lindgren asked student members what they were hearing about large lectures going online. Student members indicated that they prefer in person, citing increased ability to absorb material, ask questions, etc. They acknowledged that recorded or online lectures are useful for convenience. Roberta Kehne said that hybrid options are helpful for disabled students as well, as things like transportation, weather, and illness can pose greater barriers for them. She added that there needs to be careful attention to seating for disabled students, particularly in large lecture halls.

3. Questionnaire

Cotner provided a link to a [draft questionnaire](#) for gathering input from instructors and students. He asked the committee to look at it and provide feedback.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office