

CAS

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 22, 2014

[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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Kevin Smith (Chair), Dennis Becker, Bradley Cohen, Roberta Kehne, Kent Kirkby, Jeffrey Lindgren, Harshavardhan Sanekommu, Maria Sera, Susan Staats, Jeremy Todd, Thomas Wolfe

REGRETS: Christine Swartwout

- **ABSENT:** Daniel Orth

[In these minutes: Committee orientation; Learning Space Master Plan (LSMP) update; Topics for the year.]

1. Welcome and Introduction

Professor Smith called the meeting to order and asked for introductions. He then reviewed the charge with members and explained that the committee is a subcommittee of the Senate Committee for Educational Policy.

2. Learning Space Master Plan Update

Professor Smith stated that this initiative was developed last year in coordination with the Office for Classroom Management (OCM). He added that guiding principles would promote the importance of having active learning spaces. Members had the following comments:

- The University has a commitment to place-based learning, but without a plan, there is no data in place to support overall management of learning spaces.
- The metrics in place were defined in 1995, which are no longer applicable to current spaces and pedagogy.
- Mr. Cohen explained that the Provost supports the idea of having a more comprehensive inventory, but there are questions as to who will lead this effort. Which organization on campus should lead this initiative?
- The traditional distinction between classrooms, labs, and study spaces is no longer relevant. The inventory will need to serve several purposes.
- Astra Schedule is used to schedule spaces on the Twin Cities campus. Of the 1,200 spaces listed on Astra, many listings do not have features or pictures. A master plan would allow for a spectrum of spaces to be inventoried and data gathered.
- OCM can add more potential features to be listed for spaces if that were desired. Services can be offered to assist departments in listing their spaces.

Members then discussed learning spaces as related to the Strategic Plan:

- Spaces that are not labs and not classrooms are lacking. How do we create spaces that are open and accessible, while maintaining security?
- How can spaces be transformed to allow for cross-disciplinary learning?
- Having a diversity of learning spaces facilitates different types of teaching.
- Mr. Lindgren suggested that a list of different spaces be made to solidify the benefit of creating spaces with the consideration of the Strategic Plan.
- Members agreed that the reframing of classrooms as learning spaces emphasizes that learning takes place in many different settings and the needs are changing.
- A learning “ecosystem” encompasses the community as the broader setting in which learning takes place. How can the community and landscapes be included in the discussion of learning spaces?
- Research and outreach centers are important learning spaces and improvements to these spaces would attract and recruit field shaping faculty and students.

3. Future Topics Discussion

Members then discussed topics for the future meetings:

- Mr. Todd explained that feedback from the committee is valued by OCM and he will continue to provide regular updates.
- Tate Lab renovations will begin next year. This building will impact all instructional spaces and especially large course sections. How will scheduling be done without these spaces for the next two years? They are working with CSE to modify course sections, and will communicate within the colleges and broadly.
 - The idea of flexible learning spaces is being promoted for rooms of 70 seats and less, while maintaining some large lecture halls.
- What types of spaces are needed on campus from different groups? What are barriers within spaces?
- What are the types of spaces that support different teaching pedagogies?

Professor Smith asked members to discuss the following with their colleagues in preparation for future meetings:

- What would make spaces better?
- What is offered at other institutions?
- What could be useful within a space beyond the classroom?

Hearing no further business, Professor Smith adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich
University Senate Office