

Minutes of:

## The Student Senate

Thursday, November 1, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### 1. Administrative Response to Senate Actions (*Information*)

- **Resolution on revisions to the Parental Leave Policy for graduate students**

Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016

Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on Expanding On-Campus Childcare**

Approved by the Student Senate: November 9, 2017

Administrative Response: The administration appreciates the Student Senate's resolution on childcare and its overall advocacy for childcare for the campus community. We look forward to the recommendations of The Provost's Childcare Advisory Committee. Campus listening sessions were completed in early May. The committee welcomes all University community perspectives as it develops a set of values and goals and recommends criteria that should be included in specifications for any RFP the University might issue to private or nonprofit child care services providers or potential partners. The administration encourages community members who were unable to attend a forum, but who wish to share their thoughts with the advisory committee, to please share them via the committee website.

- **Resolution on Measuring and Maintaining Adequate Campus Mental Health Services**

Approved by the Student Senate: March 1, 2018

Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on Gender-Inclusive Restrooms**

Approved by the Student Senate: May 3, 2018

Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on Freedom of Speech**

Approved by the Student Senate: May 3, 2018  
Administrative Response: PENDING

## **2. Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee - Approval of Appointed Senators (*Action*) (11:30-11:32 a.m.)**

*Catalina Anampa Castro, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate*

**Motion:** That the Student Senate approves the appointment of the following Twin Cities student senators, as selected by the Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee:

Arzang Syed, CBS

Sydney Bauer, CEHD

Frederica Simmons, CLA

Aditya Shekhar, CLA

Samuel Rosborough, CLA

Biondina Djelovic, CLA

Anneke Duin, CSE

Alex Jono, CSOM

Angelo Jaramillo, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Benjamin Nicla, School of Public Health

**With no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.**

## **3. Minutes for May 3, 2018 (*Action*)**

*Catalina Anampa Castro, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate*

**Motion:** To approve the Student Senate [minutes from May 3, 2018](#).

**With no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

## **4. Assembly/Association Updates**

- Sam Rosemark, University of Minnesota Morris (UMM), said that the Morris campus is working on getting out the vote for the next week's elections. Their goal is to have the best turnout of all of the system campuses.
- Austin Evenson, SSCC member, University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), reported that UMD is working on a mental health awareness and prevention campaign. They also held

their annual night walk where students walk around campus with staff from facilities management to identify unsafe areas and work on ways to improve them. UMD is also still looking at updating its course evaluation procedures.

- McKenzie Englund, SSCC member, University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR), stated that the Rochester campus now has funding for better providing feminine hygiene products. The Rochester Student Association has also been working on voter engagement and making sure students are registered to vote.
- Kelly Wallin, SSCC member, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), said that COGS just recently had its October general assembly. They are focusing on programming and social events, especially for first year graduate students. COGS is also creating three new committees focusing on mental health, graduate student stipends and policy rights for graduate students under the different University policies. This last committee was formed in response to possible human resources violations where graduate students are assessed fees for programs they are not allowed to use or access.
- Amy Ma, SSCC member, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), said that MSA has also been working on voter registration. MSA is also working on the “Rename, Reclaim” campaign for the possible renaming of certain campus buildings such as the Coffman Memorial Union. In addition, they are working on a student focused mental health campaign prior to finals as well as other issues including organics recycling, student wages, and the gender identification and expression policy.
- Castro, on behalf of Beulah Mohmani, SSCC member, Professional Students Group (PSG), reported that PSG has been having conversations with Regent Abdul Omari on the student regent process as his seat will be open this next year.

## **5. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report**

*Catalina Anampa Castro, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate*

Castro announced that she has been tasked with serving on the advisory committee in the search for the next president of the University. She stated that student involvement is imperative in creating a strong criteria for the new candidates. Castro also emphasized that this is the time of year where students look for new housing for the next academic year. She encouraged all senators to reference the Student Senate’s off-campus housing survey and tasked each senator with sending information about the survey to at least one friend or to their social media platforms.

Castro continued by stating that as chair of the Student Senate, she is a member of the Student Advisory Committee to the Minnesota Department of Higher Education. This group has a charge of working with the department to provide feedback on various programs such as state run grants

and loans. The group is filled with representatives from other college systems like Students United, Minnesota State, and the Minnesota private colleges. The group's focus this year will be on food and housing insecurity for students across the state. She encouraged senators to contact her if they are interested in learning more or helping out in this work.

Finally, Castro announced that the SSCC will be meeting with President Kaler this month and encouraged senators to reach out to their SSCC representative if they have specific questions to ask of him. She has also reached out to each student government organization across the system to ensure that students are properly consulted on many upcoming policies, especially the proposed policy on gender identity, expressions, names and pronouns.

#### **6. Procedures for Election of 2018-19 Student Senate Officers and Committee Members (Information)**

1. Chair will call for nominations for the position.
  - a. Any 2018-19 Student Senator may nominate another Student Senator
  - b. Any 2018-19 Student Senator may nominate themselves
2. Chair will close nominations.
3. Each nominee will have 90 seconds to address the body.
  - a. Nominees may use this time to state their case for holding the position.
  - b. Nominees may not use their time to disparage any other nominee or Student Senator.
  - c. Senate staff will keep time and assist in signaling when time is up.
4. A vote will take place via paper ballot.
  - a. All voting Student Senators will write the name of their preferred candidate on the ballot and submit it to the Senate Office staff at the front of the theater.
  - b. System campuses shall submit their ballots to their SSCC representative and the representative will then email the results to the Senate staff at [kwap0003@umn.edu](mailto:kwap0003@umn.edu)
  - c. The senator with the most votes will be named the winner of the position.
5. If there is only one nominee for a position, the body may forego the use of paper ballots and conduct the election via a voice vote.

#### **7. Election of One (1) Student Senator to the Student Committee on Committees (Action)** *Catalina Anampa Castro, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate*

Beulah Momanyi was elected to the Student Committee on Committees for 2018-19.

## **8. Update on the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct**

*Julie Reuvers, deputy chief of staff, Office of the President*

Castro introduced Julie Reuvers, deputy chief of staff, Office of the President, to present an update on the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct as well as other issues happening within the president's office. Reuvers began her remarks by stating that President Kaler has asked that this work become more sustainable moving forward, making sure that sexual misconduct prevention is part of everyone's every day work. The hope is to operationalize the work within an administrative unit for business sponsorship purposes. This initiative has turned into more of a community effort and the intent is to continue to push this initiative in that direction. She stated that there is now a system-wide campaign called "It Ends Here" that is helping to promote a culture change throughout the University as a whole. There is also extra emphasis on making sure that these changes take hold within STEM fields, where there is a higher proliferation of incidents nationwide.

Reuvers continued by stating that President Kaler is focused on the coming recommendations from the Building Names and Institutional History Task Force. The task force is currently focused on four Twin Cities buildings but will have a more system-wide impact in the future, with the establishment of a permanent committee with system-wide representation. A report from the Task Force group is expected by the president in mid-December. Finally, Reuvers said that the provost recently sent an email to faculty and staff regarding election day, encouraging everyone to vote and for faculty to work with students if they need to miss time in class to vote. Since polls are open until 8:00 p.m. across the state, it is encouraged that students vote before or after classes if possible.

Jonathan Borowsky raised questions regarding the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct (PIPSM). He said that while this is an important issue, overall institutional responses need to be addressed. He stated that he felt cynical about the initiative based on the reactions that some of the original members of the initiative's coordinating committee experienced. He thought that many of the ideas and issues were presented for "rubber stamp" approval. He asked what the University was doing to measure the effectiveness of the initiative and making sure it is accountable. Reuvers responded by stating that she was aware of several students, including current student senators, that she perceived to have a positive experience on the coordinating committee. The goal of that committee was to be as consultative as possible, but can't speak to everyone's experience. She stated that currently, there is data analysis happening to assess the impact of some of the initial action items of the initiative, such as the mandatory training for all faculty and staff. The Evaluation subcommittee is taking into consideration how we will measure success in terms of the impact of our collective efforts (including online training and an awareness campaign, for example). While data is important for the initiative, this is meant to be

more about culture change and how all members of the community can work to make the University a safer place. She stated that she would be willing to get back to the Student Senate with further information and analysis as it becomes available.

Borowsky followed up by stating his cynicism is also based on that the centerpiece of the initiative is more bystander oriented. He asked if that sort of strategy has an impact on reducing or preventing instances of sexual misconduct. Reuvers responded that the portion Borowsky was referencing, the 2018-19 version of the public health awareness campaign, was only one component of the overall initiative. PIPSM has taken a public health approach to prevention, which considers the socio-ecological model advanced by Dr. Alan Berkowitz and others. She stated that measuring the success of the U's efforts over time will take time. For example, there may even be an increase of the number of reports on campus due to the increase of awareness of process, policies and resources for sexual assault victims. This is a dynamic effort and the University is budgeting for continued efforts within the initiative for several years into the future.

## **9. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **10. New Business**

There was no new business

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office