



**Special Meeting Minutes of:**

**The Student Senate**

**Saturday, September 4, 2021**

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate, called the special meeting to order at 9:48 a.m.

**1. Assembly/Association Updates (Information)**

*All members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)*

The members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) provided updates from their respective groups and highlights were as follows:

- Daksha Gummadi, SSCC representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), stated that the group held their first general congress that week and it was a time for members to re-introduce themselves to one another.
- Karen Coenen, SSCC representative, Rochester Student Association (RSA), had no updates as the RSA would be meeting for the first time next week.
- Karissa Grapes, SSCC representative, Professional Student Government (PSG), indicated that their group had yet to meet as well.
- Brendan King, SSCC representative, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), said that COGS recently approved their priorities for the year which will include addressing the various new COVID-19 policies on campus and participating in a task force around faculty conduct.
- Nicholas Wallenhorst, SSCC representative, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), said that most undergraduates were busy moving in this past week and their first Forum meeting will occur this Tuesday.
- Millican informed the body that the SSCC has been active over the summer with the various proposed COVID-19 related policies announced by the University. She also participated in several working groups, including the fall scenarios meetings which assisted in the planning for in-person learning on campus. The SSCC has also been consulting with the administration on the annual budgeting process.

**2. Election of a System Campus Senator to the 2021-22 Student Committee on Committees (Action)**

*Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

No system campus senator was nominated for the 2021-22 Student Committee on Committees. This item will be added to a later Student Senate docket.

### **3. Resolution on COVID-19 Policies for Students (10:00 - 10:45 am) (Action)**

*Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

Millican presented the Resolution on COVID-19 Policies for Students that the SSCC passed on behalf of the Student Senate on August 25, 2021. The resolution was in response to the new “Get the Vax 2.0” plan and Millican explained that the intent of the resolution was to ensure adequate protections for students. Millican stated that she had concerns about the equal treatment of students versus faculty and staff and was worried that a sanction of a hold on a student’s record could be more harmful than anticipated. Millican said that due to the quick nature of these policies taking effect, it was important that the SSCC act on behalf of the Student Senate to get a response more quickly. She asked that the full Student Senate endorse the resolution as it was presented to the administration.

Scott Petty, student senator, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), asked if the resolution could be modified at this time. Millican replied that since the resolution was already sent to the administration for response, it would not be appropriate. Adam Sychla, student senator, College of Biological Sciences (CBS), informed the body that he had supported this resolution and that he also worked on a resolution earlier in the summer that would have called for the vaccine mandate.

Lucas Simpson, student senator, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), asked who would enforce the penalties on students if they did not get their vaccinations in a timely manner. Millican replied that Boynton Health would be the unit to collect the vaccination information and that messages would be sent to Academic Support Resources (ASR) for the possible holds on records. Simpson indicated his support for the resolution.

Mariama Mohamed, student senator, College of Education and Human Service Professions - Duluth (CEHSP), said that she is in full support of mandatory vaccinations for students but had concerns about the University not requiring documentation of the vaccination and asked if there would be consequences for falsifying data. Millican replied that she was unsure what the penalties would be for falsifying data, but planned to follow up with the administration to find out more.

Brandon Prichard, student senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), asked how students would indicate their test results and who would be paying for the regular testing of staff. Millican again indicated that she did not have specific answers to those questions. Mattea Allert, ranking student senator, expressed her support for universal free testing for students no matter their location.

**Hearing no further discussion, a pending motion was made to endorse the resolution. The motion was seconded by Sychla, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.**

#### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office