

SCFP SUBCOMMITTEE ON TWIN CITIES FACILITIES AND SUPPORT
SERVICES (STCFSS)
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2003

[In these minutes: Approval of October 21 & November 18, 2003 Minutes, Spring Meeting Schedule, Tour of MLAC/Andersen Library]

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

PRESENT: Calvin Alexander, chair, Carrie Meyer, Dan Allen, Laurie Scheich, Steve Spehn, Gary A. Davis, Gordon Girtz, Brian Horgan, Patrice Morrow, George Wilcox, Jennifer Hannaford

REGRETS: Sharon Folk, Edward Kosciolk, Steve Fitzgerald, Lorelee Wederstrom, Gary Jahn

ABSENT: Donald Kelsey, John Adams

GUEST(S): Kathy Drozd, MINITEX

I). Professor Alexander called the meeting to order.

II). Members unanimously approved the October 21, 2003 and November 18, 2003 minutes. Professor Alexander stated if anyone notices any changes that should be made to the minutes to inform Renee Dempsey, Senate staff.

III). Professor Alexander announced the spring 2004 STCFSS meeting dates:

February 17, 2004

March 23, 2004

April 20, 2004

He noted that typically the Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month. However, in March, the Committee will meet on the fourth Tuesday to avoid any conflicts members may have with travel/vacation plans during spring break week.

Professor Alexander charged Ms. Dempsey with sending out a spring 2004 STCFSS meeting schedule to members.

IV). Next, Professor Alexander stated the main purpose of today's meeting is to tour MLAC/Andersen Library. He noted that while this is a beautiful, state-of-the-art facility structural problems have been uncovered since the building has been completed.

Kathy Drozd of MINITEX, which operates the high-density storage cavern, explained that MLAC (Minnesota Library Access Center) stores materials for 14 libraries e.g. Minneapolis Public Libraries, the State Law Library, Mankato State University, University of Minnesota Twin Cities, etc. Materials are stored in MLAC because they are low use, but still important to the State of Minnesota. Currently, the high-density storage cavern contains over 800,000 items. On average, 300 - 700 items are retrieved monthly for University of Minnesota users and an additional 400 - 500 items are retrieved monthly for non-University of Minnesota users.

Gordon Girtz provided members with a tour of MLAC and its portal area. The following problems were noted:

- Water is dissolving the limestone ceiling of the facility.
- Although the horizontal well has significantly reduced the flow reaching MLAC, coal tar contaminated groundwater continues to be a challenge to the caverns' environment.
- The limestone is delaminating in the interstitial space and egress tunnel.
- The shotcrete has fallen off the ceiling of the portal in select areas. Although the shotcrete is primarily cosmetic it becomes dangerous as it falls off the ceiling. Underspec, thin shotcrete is possibly a contributing factor to the problem.
- Crystal wedging is contributing to both the ceiling delamination and the shotcrete failures.

During the tour, Professor Alexander brought members attention to the following:

- The floor in the high-density storage cavern is cracking along a joint, which causes problems for the forklifts that need to access this area.

- There are ongoing problems with maintaining proper humidity and temperature within the caverns. The HVAC upgrade over the past winter and spring have improved the situation but the system is still often significantly outside the control ranges.
- The facility is below the 50-year flood level of the Mississippi River and the possibility of flooding remains a low probability, but a catastrophic possibility.

To conclude, Mr. Girtz stressed besides conducting engineering and architectural studies prior to the start of all construction projects at the University, hydrogeological studies need to be conducted as well. Below grade and water issues play a critical role in the success or failure of construction projects at the University. The problems experienced by MLAC/Andersen Library are not one-time issues or a series of on-going issues, analogous problems have happened in other University buildings. There is growing evidence of cumulative effects on the groundwater flow system. It was agreed the Committee would spend a portion of its next meeting on February 17, 2004 debriefing from this tour.

V). Hearing no further business, Professor Alexander adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate