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# The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

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## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)

October 22, 2021

### 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: SSCC Member Updates; Update on Recent Changes to Building Security on the Twin Cities Campus; Discussion of Docket for November 4, 2021 Student Senate Meeting; Written Responses to SSCC Questions on the PEAK Initiative]

**PRESENT:** Sarani Millican (chair), Justin Goetz (vice chair), Nicholas Wallenhorst, Karissa Grapes, Daksha Gummadi, Dylan Young, Karen Coenen, Gabbie Raymond, Lucas Simpson, Scott Petty

**REGRETS:** Tatianna Enget

**ABSENT:** Mattea Allert (ranking student senator), Brendan King

**GUESTS:** Matt Clark, chief of police, University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD)

**OTHERS:** None

Chair Sarani Millican welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

**1. SSCC Member Updates** - Members of the SSCC provided updates from their respective groups and associations and highlights were as follows:

- Nicholas Wallenhorst, SSCC representative, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), said MSA will be establishing an ad-hoc committee to work on establishing a \$15 student minimum wage. He further stated that MSA is working on standing up some other committees as well as working with undergraduate student senators to make sure that they are fulfilling their attendance requirements.
- Dylan Young, SSCC representative, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), stated that MCSA's All-University committee met for the first time this academic year and decided that infrastructure advocacy would be its top priority for the year.
- Daksha Gummadi, SSCC representative, University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA), stated that they have been working on a project called "simple

syllabus” where faculty can store all syllabi in one hub. Additionally, she noted, UMD is looking to add a course on racism and diversity to its liberal education requirements.

- Karen Coenen, SSCC representative, Rochester Student Association (RSA), stated that RSA just had an election so it now has a full board. RSA is also working to update its food pantry and to help provide better access to food for students. The RSA executive board is starting to form its committees for the year. Coenen added that she recently enlisted in the National Guard so she will need to rotate off of RSA next semester.
- Karissa Grapes, SSCC representative, Professional Student Government (PSG), stated that at its last executive meeting, PSG amended its code for awarding grants. She also noted that the PSG Congress recently met and discussed the UMD lawsuit over the COVID-19 mandate. Additionally, PSG is working on a resolution regarding permanent hybrid and remote learning for students if they are ill.
- Lucas Simpson, ex-officio representative, Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), reported that the committee recently discussed liberal education requirements changes and how these changes could impact the transfer curriculum. Other issues addressed, said Simpson, included updating the campus calendars by adding Juneteenth as a University holiday, ensuring textbooks are available especially at the Morris campus, and hearing from graduate student concerns regarding the overworking and overexposure of teaching assistants.
- Scott Petty, ex-officio representative, Senate Committee on Finance and Planning (SCFP), stated that the committee recently had a presentation that provided an overview of the University budget model, held an update on the PEAK Initiative, and had a final discussion on the Twin Cities Campus Master Plan.
- Justin Goetz, vice chair, SSCC, shared that the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) recently received an update on student affairs at the Morris campus. They also received a presentation about student success efforts utilizing data within the Canvas and APLUS systems.

**2. Update on Recent Changes to Building Security on the Twin Cities Campus** - Millican introduced Matt Clark, chief of police, University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD), who provided updates on evolving and changing security practices on and around the Twin Cities campus, including this [presentation](#) he presented to the Board of Regents. Highlights of these updates included the following:

- UMPD has added a contracted social worker to their team. This Hennepin County employee provides alternative care and services to the campus community and surrounding areas. Public safety personnel refer police cases to the social worker in an effort to better connect clients to services and as a long-term crime reduction strategy.
- UMPD has added Nick Juarez to the [Community Engagement Team](#) as a community liaison.
- Extra patrols have been added to the Marcy Holmes and Dinkytown neighborhoods. This includes adding new safety guides who act in a similar fashion to city ambassadors in downtown Minneapolis. The goal is to improve the visibility of public safety services.
- Escort services have recently been extended to locations off-campus to make sure people get home safely.
- Input from students is valued as it helps to better hear and understand their specific needs within the community.

- New technologies are being installed, including additional blue phones and temporary light trailers at heavily trafficked locations. UMPD is working with the city of Minneapolis to add additional permanent lighting.
- The University's Department of Public Safety manages large services, including security, the 911 center, and the card reader and camera access systems.

Millican asked how often system campuses interact with the UMPD. Clark replied that he meets weekly with his colleagues on the system campuses to talk strategically about a number of issues to deliver consistent services. Petty asked if he is in charge of that group or if they are more like peers. Clark clarified that he does not directly oversee system campus operations but does work as a peer and support system for providing resources.

Wallenhorst noted that he is concerned about crime in Dinkytown and asked if Clark had any information available about the safety ambassador program's success in deterring crime. Clark indicated that due to the recent implementation of the program, it is too soon to tell if enough data has been collected to assess any meaningful outcomes.

Petty noted that UMPD engagement with student groups had noticeably changed, especially in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Clark acknowledged that it can be difficult to address student demands for policing changes. UMPD's goals are to make sure that the campus is as safe and welcoming as possible. Clark emphasized that the UMPD wants to always make itself available to students when specific concerns arise and to respond to them as quickly as possible.

Millican inquired about building security and the recent changes over the past year that have limited public access to buildings. Clark noted that when the pandemic hit and personnel were largely absent from campus, it was necessary to limit access. He further explained that specific building access guidelines often fall to building occupants and are reviewed on a regular basis. Once the campus was set to more fully reopen this fall, primary building contacts consulted with building occupants to gauge its best needs for public hours and specific access. He said that about 40% of buildings decided to keep their exterior doors locked yet accessible via U card. Clark indicated that he is looking for feedback about possible unintentional accessibility issues. Millican suggested that reviews of access to buildings occur prior to the summer so that student voices can be more actively heard. Clark agreed that he was willing to move such reviews to the spring.

Wallenhorst asked how Clark receives student consultation and which groups he meets with most frequently. Clark stated that UMDP tries to hold as many community engagement activities as possible. This has included a popular self-defense course as well as public campaigns on issues like sexual assault awareness. Clark said that they are working to more frequently promote the RAVE escort app and will be consulting with the Office for Student Affairs on that effort. Wallenhorst thanked Clark for the work on lighting in Dinkytown and asked how students can help assist UMPD with their requests with the city. Clark indicated that they are working with a direct contact at City Hall and would provide that information to MSA.

Petty asked why systemwide control of building access is handled by the Twin Cities campus. Clark explained that personnel for 24/7 monitoring on system campuses are limited and this is a service that the Twin Cities can more easily provide.

**3. Discussion of Docket for November 4, 2021 Student Senate Meeting** - Millican provided an overview of the draft [docket](#) for the November 4, 2021, meeting of the Student Senate. Millican indicated that the docket is lacking agenda items and asked if SSCC members had suggestions for items to add. Petty suggested that further discussions about University infrastructure could be beneficial. Raymond noted that proper mask wearing has been an issue at UMD and could be discussed. Wallenhorst added that MSA may have some resolutions coming soon for Student Senate endorsement, but they may not be ready until December. He also suggested small breakout sessions for senators to discuss advocacy projects. Millican said she will take all of these suggestions under advisement.

**4. [Written Responses to SSCC Questions on the PEAK Initiative](#)** - Millican shared with the committee responses she received from PEAK Initiative representatives to some outstanding questions submitted to them by the SSCC.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office