

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
NOVEMBER 20, 2002

[In these minutes: Welcome, CMU Update, Office of International Programs – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) Update, Gopher-Viking Stadium Discussion]

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

PRESENT: Cheryl Meyers, chair, Jim Turman, Yasemin Kaygisiz, Amy Lee, Gerald Rinehart, Janet Schottel, Kari Lindeman, Nick Cecconi

REGRETS: David Lenander

ABSENT: (Clarence)Jasen Peterson

OTHERS: Gabriele Schmiegel, Dorit Hafner

GUESTS: Maggie Towle, Director, Twin Cities Student Unions and Student Activities, Chuck Hernick, President, Student Union Board of Governors

I). Professor Meyers called the meeting to order and asked those present to introduce themselves.

II). The committee unanimously approved the October 2, 2002 minutes.

III). Professor Meyers welcomed Maggie Towle, Director, Twin Cities Student Unions and Student Activities and Chuck Hernick, President, Student Union Board of Governors who were invited to give the committee an update on Coffman Memorial Union.

Ms. Towle provided the following information:

- Coffman Memorial Union (CMU) is expected open on January 21, 2003.
- There will be a phased in grand opening. The bookstore will move in around mid February, the UCard Office is expected to move in late January and University Printing Services will move in during the month of February.
- CMU will be fully open on March 1, 2003. There will be formal grand opening activities March 24 – 29, 2003.
- At the end of spring semester, CMU will host a celebration banquet for the senior class because they contributed to the Union for many years but were unable to use it while it was being renovated. Plans are being made to have a wall of honor

listing all the seniors' names as well as the previous classes that contributed to the renovation of CMU.

The committee had the following questions:

Q: Will the services offered by CMU be adequate and appropriate to meet students' needs?

A: A student survey was conducted in 1998 asking students about various aspects of CMU. Students listed the following as being the most important facilities and services that should be offered:

- More accessible short term parking
- Bookstore
- Computer lab
- Post Office
- Air conditioning
- Additional quiet lounge space
- First-run movie theater. After looking into this request further, it was decided that it would not be financially feasible for the University to have a first-run movie theater but there will be a beautiful 400 seat, second-run movie theater in CMU.
- Discount ticket office
- Copy center
- Food choices with national and local brands

Q: Is the budget sufficient to run the program offerings?

A: Over the past couple years a significant amount of time has been spent working with the Office of Budget & Finance evaluating CMU's business plan. CMU is committed to working within its budget. Because Student Service Fees will not be raised, CMU has had to retrench in other areas in order to stay within its operating budget.

Q: What hours will CMU be open?

A: Sundays 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., Mondays – Thursdays 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m., Fridays & Saturdays 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 a.m.

Q: Why isn't CMU student run?

A: Charles Hernick noted that the Student Union Board of Governors provides oversight for the student unions. The goal of the Student Union Board of Governors is to enhance a sense of community, life-long learning and pride in the University of Minnesota. This goal is accomplished through the programs, services and facilities offered at the student unions. Ms. Towle noted that 64% of CMU's full-time equivalency (FTE) are students and only 36% FTE are staff.

Ms. Towle noted that in fiscal year 2003 – 2004 the issue of the commuter student would be addressed. One goal is to create learning communities within the student unions for commuter students.

Q: What kind, if any, marketing efforts will CMU conduct?

A: CMU has a very up-to-date website for the Twin Cities student unions that lists all the programs, etc. Additionally, CMU is working with ADCS and University Relations related to an event calendar and how CMU should use this tool to promote its events. The Insider Online is another avenue CMU will use to advertise its events.

Q: Will all the student organizations that were housed in CMU prior to its remodeling return?

A: Yes, plus there is space for a few more organizations as well.

Q: How will the Campus Club be organized? Will it only be open to faculty?

A: No, memberships will be open to faculty, students and staff.

Q: What kind of security will CMU have?

A: Ms. Towle noted that the Security Monitor Program would be housed in CMU. This program offers an escort service for those that need to go home or get to their car. CMU also has an extensive alarm and camera system. Additionally, emergency preparedness steps have been put in place in case of an emergency.

Ms. Towle mentioned CMU would house a travel agency, STA Travel, as well as a full-service bank, USBank.

Q: What will move into the former West Bank Bookstore space?

A: Ms. Towle is unsure. She referred members to contact Mike Berthelsen ([berth004@umn.edu](mailto:berth004@umn.edu)) or Michaeleen Fox ([mfox@umn.edu](mailto:mfox@umn.edu)) for more information.

Q: How does the administration plan to evaluate CMU's use?

A: A written survey similar to that conducted in 1998 will be done along with annual traffic surveys, counts and customer surveys through CMU's event and conference department.

Professor Meyers and the committee thanked Ms. Towle and Mr. Hernick for coming to today's meeting and providing the committee with an update on CMU.

IV). Professor Meyers welcomed Gabriele Schmiegel from the Office of International Programs – International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) who will provide the committee with information on SEVIS. SEVIS, Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, is a federally mandated, electronic reporting system that provides information to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) on international students and scholars. Once SEVIS is operational (January 30, 2003), student data will be relayed to the INS daily in batch. Currently, there are approximately 3,500 international students attending the University plus an additional 1,200 foreign faculty and scholars from 140 different countries.

The University's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office deals with the day-to-day issues of taking care of foreign faculty and international students and helping them maneuver through U.S. immigration regulations.

Members were interested to know if there has been a decrease in the number of international students enrolled at the University since September 11, 2001. According to Ms. Schmiegel, the answer is yes and no. The enrollment of newly admitted international students decreased about 18% for fall 2002, however, the total enrollment of international students is down only 3.2% which is largely due to the requirement that graduate students must be registered on an on-going basis rather than only once a year. It is speculated that the reason for the decrease in newly admitted international students is attributable to students having problems getting visas issued on time.

The United States has always tracked individual's names when they apply for a visa and checked this information against federal and local law enforcement databases. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, however, it has also become routine to add security clearances for males between the ages of 16 – 49 and additional security checks for males between 16 – 49 from 26 specific countries, primarily Muslim. Security clearances can be triggered by country of citizenship, country of birth, field of study as well as the age and gender of the visa applicant.

Prior to September 11<sup>th</sup> there was only one visa application an individual had to complete no matter what kind of visa was being applied for. Now there are 3 different applications with very detailed questions. Ms. Schmiegel read aloud some of the questions on the visa applications.

Additionally, Ms. Schmiegel noted something call 'special registration' that impacts males (either citizens or individuals born in certain countries) from 5 designated countries that sponsor terrorism. These individuals must check in yearly with the INS and failure to do so, if they stay in the U.S. longer than 30 days, makes them subject to prosecution and deportation.

The University's International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office is responsible for sharing the information it receives from the INS and other federal agencies with international students, foreign faculty and scholars, and, at the same time, deal with a population that is feeling very unsettled by all the changes. The ISSS is hoping to bridge the monetary and reporting aspect of what they do while providing a welcoming and supportive environment to international students, faculty and scholars.

The committee was interested in knowing of reports of discrimination on campus since September 11<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Schmiegel relayed examples hate crimes on campus as well as inappropriate comments from faculty, staff and students directed at international students. She also noted many international students are afraid to come forward and file a report should an incident occur. Members discussed climate issues on campus in the wake of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Professor Rinehart stated that the Undergraduate Dean's Council is planning to discuss future exit surveys at its next meeting. He noted that questions along

these lines might be worthwhile to incorporate in the next survey and agreed to report back to the committee the outcome of this meeting. Assistant Vice President of Recreational Sports, Jim Turman, a SCSA member and a member of the Student Dispute Resolution Board volunteered to ask if any hate crime reports have been filed with either the Student Dispute Resolution Board and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and report back to the committee.

According to Ms. Schmiegel, the ISSS is in an awkward position because they must make SEVIS operational by January 30, 2003 in order to be in compliance with federal regulations but at the same time these regulations are not forthcoming from the government. Additionally, if an academic advisor or staff person in ISSS makes a mistake and misadvises an international student the repercussions fall solely on the student. Ms. Schmiegel noted the ISSS is in the process of educating the population it serves about the importance of personal responsibility and asking questions before making a decision. Another struggle being faced by ISSS is the need to get the INS required information in sync with the University's PeopleSoft database. In the end, Ms. Schmiegel's fear is that increased federal regulations will adversely affect the number of international students, faculty and scholars that come to the U.S. for educational purposes.

A member asked Ms. Schmiegel how these new regulations are affecting the University's undergraduate Study Abroad Program and other exchange programs. Ms. Schmiegel believes there has been an increase in the number of American students going abroad. The University, however, will not send any of its students to countries that are listed on the travel advisory list.

To conclude, Professor Meyers thanked Ms. Schmiegel for sharing this very informative information with the committee.

V). Professor Meyers noted she was contacted by Ryan Osero, SSCC chair, noting that the Student Senate plans to make a statement concerning the Gopher Viking stadium issue at its next meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Osero would like input from SCSA on this issue. Professor Meyers felt that in light of the fact that SCSA lacks significant student representation it would be beneficial to have the student survey results before SCSA discusses the issue and takes a stand.

A student member commented that based on discussions she has overheard, students would prefer a Gopher only stadium as opposed to a joint Gopher Viking stadium but realize the cost would probably make this unattainable. Another member noted this is not necessarily true because a number of stadiums have been built recently that cost under \$100 million. The committee went off the record as their discussion on this issue continued.

Depending on outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the University and the Vikings, SCSA may have the stadium issue on its December 4<sup>th</sup> agenda.

VI). Hearing no further business, Professor Meyers adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey  
University Senate