

Social Concerns Committee
March 27, 2017
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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents.

[**In these minutes:** Title IX Education Resolution Update; Investments Update; Council of Graduate Students' Sanctuary Campus Resolution; Resolutions on Waste Management; Other Business]

PRESENT: Mark Pedelty (chair), Randy Croce, Abigail Dayton, Laura Duckett, Prashant Earath, David Fuhs, Zan Gao, Nicholas Goldsmith, Deborah Hendricks, Derek Kiewatt, Gabriella Kraus, Alex LaValley, Alex Oftelie, Kendra Okposo, Rachel Schurmann, Sarah Sexton, Molly Schwartz, Megan Sweet, Boris Volkov

REGRETS: Becca Gercken, Daniel Kelliher, Leah Peterson

GUESTS: Elena Gambino, member, Council of Graduate Students; Ingrid Nuttall, incoming chair, Social Concerns Committee

OTHERS: Lyle Peterson, policy coordinator, Office of the President

1. Title IX Education Resolution Update

Chair Mark Pedelty yielded the floor to Randy Croce, who updated the committee on the status of the Resolution on Title IX Education. He informed members that he had taken the resolution to the Civil Service Consultative Committee (CSCC), which had endorsed the resolution after providing the following feedback:

- The resolution should specify that training should be done on regularly-scheduled work time.
- Some University employees have supervisors that are technically employed by an entity other than the University (such as Aramark), and these individuals should do the training, as well.
- The suggestion was made that enforcement should consist of notifying an employee's immediate supervisor if the employee repeatedly fails to complete the training.

Regarding enforcement, Kendra Okposo commented that other universities with similar trainings have manifested a 85-100% compliance rate without sanctions. She explained that they had decided not to include sanctions in the resolution, but that the question could be revisited if high rates of non-compliance were observed. Croce said that he would follow up with the CSCC on this point. The Social Concerns Committee voted to incorporate CSCC's other suggestions into the resolution. Okposo clarified that she would have to check on whether the University could require non-University employees (such as Aramark employees) supervising University

employees to complete the training, but she thought it would be possible by incorporating it into contracts.

Croce also reported that he had taken the resolution to the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), and that it had passed with one small change, and Okposo reported that she had taken the resolution to the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA), who had unanimously endorsed it. She also told members that in his State of the University Address, President Eric Kaler had voiced his support for mandating such training.

Croce said that he would seek feedback from the P&A Consultative Committee at their April 19, 2017 meeting, and that the resolution would go to the University Senate for a vote in May 2017.

Members thanked Croce and Okposo for all of their work.

2. Investments Update

Chair Mark Pedelty reported that he had met with Associate Vice President for University Finance Stuart Mason regarding University investments, specifically regarding palm oil, the production of which contributes to habitat destruction in Southeast Asia. Pedelty said Mason informed him that the University does not invest in palm oil in any of the accounts over which the University has discretion. Mason clarified that 37% of the University's accounts are illiquid. Pedelty invited feedback from members regarding whether the committee should involve itself in such matters, and members generally agreed that general oversight would be within the committee's scope, but that getting into details was not within its purview. Deborah Hendricks asked whether there was a list of investing principles, and suggested if the committee could see that list and review it. Members agreed that this was a good idea, and Pedelty agreed to follow up with Mason.

3. Council of Graduate Students' Sanctuary Campus Resolution

Elena Gambino, a Ph.D. student in political science and representative of the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), introduced a resolution that had been passed in COGS advocating for the University to declare itself a sanctuary campus. She explained that the official sanctuary designation really matters to students, whereas threats to funding and other consequences are really linked to undocumented-friendly policies, which the University already espouses. She said that in addition to COGS, the Morris Student Association and the Student Senate had already passed the resolution.

Alex Oftelie asked whether there had been consultations with legal counsel regarding the potential impact, as the Department of Justice (DOJ) had announced it would pull funding for sanctuary cities. Nicholas Goldsmith reiterated that the DOJ had a list of policies they checked for, and that the designation itself doesn't matter for DOJ action. He added that Minneapolis and St. Paul are both sanctuary cities and have been clear that they will find a way to deal with any resulting funding issues. Gambino said that COGS had not consulted with legal counsel. Croce pointed out that international applications to the University were already down substantially, and that the University was already being impacted fiscally. He urged members to consider how to

balance a real fiscal threat as a result of declining international enrollment with a theoretical threat due to pulled funding.

At this point, Gambino thanked the committee and departed, and the committee continued its discussion.

Members agreed that it is a moral responsibility to speak out, but many were unsure whether the committee should support COGS' resolution or craft a companion resolution. Several members volunteered to look at the resolution point by point and recommend a course of action.

4. Resolutions on Waste Management

Pedelty turned the committee's attention to the two resolutions he had drafted with the assistance of Dana Donatucci, recycling supervisor, Facilities Management. The first resolution called for the University to require outside vendors to use compostable serviceware items, and the second resolution calls for the University to adopt central collection of waste in order to facilitate greater recovery and expand organic recycling to all buildings on campus. Goldsmith commented that compostable serviceware may be difficult to enforce, given the number of functions on campus that use different outside vendors, but said that nevertheless he supported the resolution. Alex LaValley added that banning plastic bags would be something to look at in the future, but that these resolutions were a great start in reducing the University's waste. Hendricks asked how it works at Morris, as they have adopted central collection, and Croce said that Morris achieves a 90% recovery rate, so the campus is effectively zero-waste. Hendricks suggested adding this information to the text of the resolution. Members voted to pass both resolutions.

5. Other Business

Croce reported that the Senate Research Committee (SRC) was working on a letter to the Office of Human Resources regarding the implementation of a central pool to cover unexpected leaves, most notably parental leave.

With no further business, Pedelty adjourned the meeting.

Amber Bathke
University Senate Office