

**Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA)  
September 23, 2020  
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:** University Senate Governance Orientation and Overview; Elect One Student as Ex-Officio Member on the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC); Update on the University’s Mental Health Environmental Scan; Update on Title IX Policy Changes at the University; Discussion of Ideas and Issues for the Academic Year]

**PRESENT:** Cody Mikl (chair), Rose Vukovic, Madeline Squier, Sarah Beraki, Mattea Allert, James Farnsworth, Justin Goetz, Brandon King, Brianna Murano, Sam Rosemark, Niko Sexton, Kaicheng Shi, Lauren Tehan, Vue Vang, Laura Knudson, Kendre Turonie

**REGRETS:** David Blank, Adrienne Conley, Gabrielle Raymond

**ABSENT:** Nathaniel Mills, Marie Monter, Dylan Martin

**GUESTS:** Matthew Hanson, interim director, Boynton Mental Health Clinic; Vesna Hampel-Kozar, director, Student Counseling Services; Tina Marisam, director and Title IX coordinator, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA)

**OTHERS:** Lisa Erwin, Megan Sweet

Chair Cody Mikl welcomed the committee, and members introduced themselves.

**1. University Senate Governance Orientation and Overview** - Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office, provided an overview, including a [slide deck](#), on University Senate governance as well as the [SCSA’s committee charge](#).

**2. Elect One Student as Ex-Officio Member on the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)** - Justin Goetz was elected as an ex-officio member to the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC).

**3. Update on the University’s Mental Health Environmental Scan** - Mikl introduced Matthew Hanson, interim director, Boynton Mental Health Clinic, and Vesna Hampel-Kozar, director, Student Counseling Services, to provide an update on mental health services on the Twin Cities campus and an overview of the mental health environmental scan which took place last year. Hanson began by presenting a [slide deck](#) with Hampel-Kozar and some highlights of the presentation included the following:

- Their data on student mental health was gathered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The environmental scan helped to identify all clinical services available on each campus and identify where potential gaps exist.
- The pandemic has created new challenges for providing students with mental health services, including state public health requirements, burnout or compassion fatigue, and insurance coverage for students no longer on campus.
- Unsurprisingly, anxiety diagnoses have increased over the past 12 months.
- A number of students are also engaging in clinical services not offered by the University but offered within the community.

Brianna Murano asked about telepsychiatry services and if that only refers to medical diagnoses. Hanson replied that on some campuses like Morris, that service was specifically used for medication evaluation and management. Brandon King asked if the University can partner with community clinics to provide further resources for students. Hanson replied that they are working to build a network of providers which can be dependent on where a student is living and if their insurance is accepted. Case workers are working hard to gather all of that information. Rose Vukovic commended the work done by Student Counseling Services as she has heard that waitlists are almost non-existent this year.

Mattea Allert asked if students need to be within the state of Minnesota to receive telehealth-type therapy services. Hansen replied that this is the case and Allert opined that students living out of state or out of the country should get some better options considering they are paying fees for Boynton Health services.

**4. Update on Title IX Policy Changes at the University** - Mikl introduced Tina Marisam, director and Title IX coordinator, Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA), who provided an update on Title IX policy changes that occurred over the summer. Marisam shared a [slide deck](#) with the committee and highlighted that the federal Department of Education (DOE) created new regulations around sexual misconduct on college campuses. In order to conform with these new regulations, the University needed to take a number of actions including:

- Amending administrative and Board of Regents policies to reflect these changes.
- Provide a new uniform grievance process for all faculty, staff, and students alike which includes a consistent burden of proof for finding someone responsible for a Title IX violation.
- Create a systemwide central office for handling cases of alleged sexual misconduct.
- Live hearings must be offered in all cases, much like they are currently offered in student cases.
- These new regulations went into effect on August 14, 2020.

Murano asked how faculty and staff cases were previously decided. Marisam stated that those cases were previously decided by EOAA but will now include the live hearing and appeal process. Mikl asked if there is a possibility that students, faculty, and staff all be subjected to the same standards or conduct code. Marisam replied that the general purpose of the student conduct code is for it to be developmental in nature and many critics have argued that these new regulations are structured in a more litigious nature rather than an educational one.

Lisa Erwin commented that she is hopeful that the informal resolution process will create new opportunities for restorative justice outcomes, especially for those who have experienced harm. Allert asked if there has been a decrease in reporting of misconduct during the pandemic. Marisam replied that they do not have enough data yet on that but will be watching it closely.

**5. Discussion of Ideas and Issues for the Academic Year** - Due to time constraints, Mikl asked committee members to follow up with him and Kwapick to provide issues and ideas for future committee topics.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office