

[In these minutes: Updates, Travel dates, Technology commercialization discussion, Proposed Student Senate numbers, Changes to the Regents Policy on Student Representatives to the Regents]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2004

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus 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: Dan Weiske (chair), Sean Bell, Joshua Colburn, James Kanten, Levi Kary, Scott LeBlanc, Charles Stech, Jeremy Steil, Adam VanWagner.

ABSENT: Derek Brunsberg,

1. UPDATES

ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

Dan Weiske reported that two staff from Boynton and Assistant Vice President for Public Safety Greg Hestness joined the task force to talk about alcohol concerns and issues. The task force proposed serving alcohol at cultural events, in the unions, and by student groups. The pros and cons of the proposal were discussed, as well as the difference between serving and selling. Assessment of student needs at all age levels is still needed as well as internal benchmarking. Boynton staff mentioned the political reality surrounding alcohol at this time.

Q: Was alcohol and student health addressed?

A: It was directly addressed since it is hard to compare the University with other institutions or to rely solely on the number of students caught for policy violations. The right questions need to be asked to get at accurate data, but concerns cannot be addressed without supporting data.

TEACHING EVALUATIONS

Scott LeBlanc said that this subcommittee is moving slowly towards a result. At the recent MSA meeting, Vice Provost Craig Swan noted that the best way to reduce class shopping is to get evaluations on-line so students know what they are registering for. At the next subcommittee meeting, 360 degree review and logistics of how to address the issue will be discussed.

Q: Is there a way to get more students involved on the subcommittee?

A: While there is only one student member, the subcommittee is pushing for what is in the best interest of students.

Members made the following comments:

- SSCC can request a report to keep up-to-date on what is happening
- Scott LeBlanc could talk with the subcommittee and ask for one more student member

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Adam VanWagner stated that the committee is reviewing its charge and proposing that a new subcommittee be created to initiate a review of the Student Conduct Code every 10 years. A housing survey was also sent to each campus to gather information. The Twin Cities housing director will be at the next meeting to answer questions on safe and affordable housing. The Student Services Fee Subcommittee will also meet this spring.

Q: Did the responses indicate a housing shortage?

A: Yes at some campuses and for some groups.

Q: Were the answers different between campuses?

A: Most answers were consistent, but the response lengths varied considerably.

Members then made the following comments:

- There is a shortage of on-campus housing for married students
- Housing is self-funded so it is hard to build more
- Housing needs to run a surplus to pay for new expenses
- Housing survey is needed to find out why students leave the residence halls

2. FINALIZE TRAVEL DATES TO DULUTH AND CROOKSTON

The Duluth trip was set for Sunday, February 29, leaving at 3:30 and the Crookston trip was planned for Sunday, April 18 with the hope that the travel can be completed in one day.

3. MEMBER FOR BUSINESS AND RULES

Levi Kary agreed to be the new Business and Rules Committee member.

4. DISCUSSION OF THE TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION ISSUE

Members reviewed the packet of materials provided and made the following comments:

- Issue has some implications for graduate student research
- Students cannot receive royalties from research paid for with federal grants because they are not part of the permanent structure of the University
- There is a statute of limitations for patents in regards to marketing them
- Who has jurisdiction over intellectual property?
- Some issues addressed by the Bayh-Doyle Act, but a Regents policy is being considered

- SSCC needs to be aware of the issues and be advocates for the student position
- Direct support back to students is needed
- Collaboration needs to be encouraged between the University and private businesses
- Proposal limits the University to non-profit incubators of which there are few
- Private industries usually want exclusive rights to patents for a set number of years for their investment

Dan Weiske said that members need to be prepared to weigh-in when this issue is discussed at the University Senate next week.

5. DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED STUDENT SENATE NUMBERS

Dan Weiske noted that there are now several proposed sets of numbers for the Senate being circulated: using a formula to assign seats, using a formula but guaranteeing a two seat minimum, and keeping the current faculty and student numbers and just adding 50 new seats. In regards to the two seat minimum proposal, he expressed concern for students since some colleges cannot even fill one seat, and now might have two seats vacant. He asked if members preferred any of the options; he will pose the same question to the Student Senate next week.

Members made the following comments:

- Morris feels that their divisions should be considered like colleges and assigned seats accordingly
- Morris faculty expressed concerns with the proposal
- Duluth prefers the two seat minimum option since the last option would make the body too big and the first option would reduce the student voice
- Two seat minimum was proposed by faculty

6. DISCUSSION OF CHANGES TO THE REGENTS POLICY ON STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE REGENTS

Dan Weiske brought a proposed policy change regarding the Student Representatives to the Regents to the attention of the committee since it would eliminate SSCC involvement in one part of the process. Currently, Student Rep to Regents vacancies are filled by an ad hoc committee, comprised of SSCC and the remaining Student Reps to Regents. The policy change proposes that electing bodies would fill their own vacancies. He did not see any problems with the change, but wanted to bring it to the committee's attention before it is voted on in March. There was no disagreement from the committee.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Q: What is the latest amount being discussed for the proposed student stadium fee?

A: While an amount has not been publicized, rumors place it at anywhere from \$30-100 per

semester. In exchange for the fee, 6000 free seats would be given to students per game, with the hope that students would camp out the night before to get a chance at tickets, which would allow for other events to be scheduled during this time.

Members made the following comments:

- Students who cannot use the stadium should not be charged, so the fee should not start until the stadium is complete
- Students should have a chance to weigh-in once a final figure is released
- Coffman cost students \$45 million over 20 years
- University does not need \$90 million from students
- State funding should be sought to lower the student contribution
- If a fee is used, it will be done through the administration to by-pass the fees process
- SSCC should request a report from the Stadium Advisory Committee since no one is receiving up-to-date information
- This part of the process needs to be open for general discussion with the students

With no further business, Dan Weiske thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate