

MAY 19, 1994

The fifth meeting of the Student Senate for 1993-94 was convened in 25 Law Center, Minneapolis campus, on Thursday, May 19, 1994, at 11:30 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by telephone. Checking or signing the roll as present were 16 voting student members. Mr. Erick Harper, Student Senate Chair, presided.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Action

APPROVED

II. MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 17 and April 14, 1994

Action

APPROVED

III. REPORTS

Information

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR--Mr. Love Goel expressed disappointment that the Governor vetoed the Conference Committee's recommendation to allocate \$9.1 million to the University. He commended student leaders for their active participation at the Legislature this year and said that in spite of the veto there was strong support for U2000 initiatives at the Capitol. In addition to lobbying efforts, meetings between student leaders and Vice President Hughes and Dr. Josie Johnson have been held at which it was reported that University initiatives in the area of diversity are on target. Two of the primary goals set by the Diversity Task Force (increasing students of color to 10% and doubling the hiring of minority faculty) have almost been met. The Student Senate Consultative Committee has also met regularly with President Hasselmo throughout the year to discuss issues affecting students and particularly U2000 initiatives.

STUDENT LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR--Mr. Bryan Jansen reported on some of the outcomes of the bonding bill, which included appropriations for the School of Management, Mechanical Engineering, University Archives, and UMD Medical School projects, and life and safety facilities renewal.

STUDENT COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES--No official report was given but students interested in serving on Senate or Assembly committees during 1994-95 were encouraged to contact Michael Witt at 612-589-6086.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE--Mr. Gary Lind reported that the Student Affairs Committee together with representatives of the Student Affairs Office have spent a good deal of time this year discussing the Boynton Health Service Fee request, housing issues, and the Greek initiative. Some issues that are expected to be addressed next year include security at University events, food service at student organization events, and Student Health Advisory Committee representation on the Student Affairs Committee. Because of the nature of the committee, strong student representation is needed and student

senators were encouraged to volunteer for service.

IV. STUDENT SENATE ELECTIONS
Action

Due to the poor attendance, a motion to postpone the elections of the Student Senate Chair and Vice Chair until the first meeting of fall quarter was approved.

APPROVED

V. STUDENT SENATE GOVERNANCE, STRUCTURE, AND RESPONSIVENESS
Discussion

Mr. Love Goel, Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair, opened the discussion on student governance concerns. A number of student leaders have discussed this issue, he said, and believe the Student Senate needs to be more responsive to student concerns and interests and to develop ways to encourage greater participation. Student attendance and participation has been very poor this year and before the Student Senate tackles new issues, it must deal with this problem. One senator cited the brevity of the Student Senate agendas and suggested students do not attend the meetings because there doesn't appear to be much substance to them. Reasons for lack of attendance are probably manifold, argued others, including scheduling conflicts, disinterest, and even forgetfulness, and it will be important to determine why students are not attending before attempting to solve the problem. In conclusion, the students agreed to establish an ad hoc committee to work on this issue over the summer months with Mr. Eric Strauss serving as chair. In connection with this, senators also thought it would be useful to have an orientation early fall quarter to educate student senators about their role and responsibilities as elected representatives.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Jennifer McKeever announced that all hurdles associated with the establishment of the University of Minnesota Coalition for Higher Education (UMCHE) have been passed and that effective fall quarter the UMCHE will be replacing the Student Lobby Advisory Committee (SLAC). A planning meeting is scheduled for May 26, at 3:00 p.m., in 626 Coffman Union and all senators were invited to attend to discuss the UMCHE's Constitution, the transition committee, and budgetary issues.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Martha Kvanbeck
Abstractor