

[Meeting topics: student association and committee updates, Commencement Festival 2000, Food Service update, proposal concerning the way the health service fees pay for services at Boynton Health Service, parking issues.]

MINUTES

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 20, 1999

3:00-4:30 p.m.

300 Morrill Hall

Present: Kathleen Peterson (chair), Sabeen Altaf, Jane Canney, Thomas Haakenson, Nicole Kubista, Ted Labuza, Brittany Leigh, David Lenander, Chris Macosko, John Romano, Laura Taken, Hillary Walters

Regrets: Laura Langer

Absent: Jesse Berglund, Maren Mahowald

Guests: Edward Ehlinger (Boynton Health Services)

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of 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.

1. November 18 Minutes

The November 18 minutes were approved as presented.

2. Student Association and Committee Updates

Minnesota Student Association (MSA)--Ms. Altaf, who serves on the Student Life Committee of MSA reported on an initiative called Pack Mariucci in which members of MSA are working with local businesses to support women's hockey. MSA plans to give out approximately 500 tickets to the February 26 hockey game against Brown University, and local merchants will be providing free food and prizes.

Ms. Kubista added that MSA is also working on a plan to establish a central area where students can go for information on any topics related to the University. Ms. Kvanbeck and Ms. Canney described the One Stop for Students initiative that central administration is working on under the

direction of Vice President Carrier. One Stop will provide a single location on the U of M web site that provides students access to all student-related information. The One Stop page is the starting point for students and will contain links to student-related services and information, such as enrolling in classes, view holds, University directories, computer and internet information, and health services. In addition to the web site, there will be three walk-in locations (one each on West Bank, East Bank, and St. Paul), and a help line. Ms. Canney thought it might be helpful for members of MSA to meet with Sue Van Voorhis and Michael Handberg. Ms. Peterson said she will also invite them to join the committee meeting in February to discuss this initiative.

Professor Macosko inquired about the student ombudsman program and Ms. Canney replied that that is a student fees funded, student dispute resolution center. Its focus is more narrow than the One Stop initiative and what MSA is discussing.

One person asked whether students can pose questions on the One Stop web site and receive answers in a timely fashion? This question will be raised with Mr. Handberg and Ms. Van Voorhis.

There might also be a need to have sites focused specifically on colleges as well as a site for broader issues/questions.

Legislative Affairs Committee--Hillary Walters reported on several initiatives: 1) Governor Ventura has been invited to meet with students in an open forum setting and they are awaiting his response, 2) a monthly column in the *Minnesota Daily* is in the works to keep students abreast of legislative activities, and 3) discussions are under way concerning improving student communications with the City Council and other appropriate legislative bodies.

Student Services Fees Committee--Ms. Kubista reported that the Fees Committee has a number of issues on its agenda this year, including the Coffman renovation, semester conversion and, of course, making recommendations concerning student fees. In response to a question about the role of the Student Affairs Committee in the fees process, Ms. Kubista said that typically the Fees Committee provides reports to the Student Affairs Committee to keep it abreast of its work and finds its input and advice most helpful. It is not the Student Affairs Committee's responsibility, however, to approve recommendations of the Fees Committee.

Ms. Canney added that June Nobbe, director of the Campus Involvement Center, serves advisory to the Fees Committee. Moreover, several central administrative offices have ex officio representation on the committee. The recommendations of the Fees Committee are forwarded to Vice President Boston and the Board of Regents for information and action.

3. Commencement Festival 2000

Ms. Canney and Vice Provost Swan will be co-chairing the Commencement Festival 2000. Each college will continue with its own commencement event, but in addition there will also be a University festival celebrating all graduating students. President Yudof would like this to be an annual event to be launched in 2000. Ms. Canney and Vice Provost Swan are looking for interested faculty and students to serve on the planning committee. She asked members to let her

know if they would be interested in serving and/or to forward nominations to her. Several nominations were provided at the meeting.

4. Food Service Update

Vice President Boston and Associate Vice President Ron Campbell will be presenting an overview of the financial implications of the Aramark contract at an upcoming Senate Finance and Planning Committee meeting. Aramark will be submitting a self-evaluation in the near future and a Food Service Advisory Committee is being formed, which was an outgrowth of student organizations. The charge, Ms. Canney said, has been very well crafted by the students. It will include dividing any end-of-year profits to student organizations and the Residence Halls Association.

Professor Labuza raised the concern that because of the University's autonomous status, there is no ability for local or state agencies to inspect University food service facilities. He strongly encouraged the Student Affairs Committee to make a formal recommendation concerning food handling and safety.

Ms. Taken suggested the importance of having at least one or two of the three residence hall representatives be RAs who have had broader experience with the students and halls.

The Committee said it would like to have a presentation on the Coffman renovation project at an upcoming meeting and Ms. Canney agreed to make the arrangement.

5. General Discussion

As a new member, Professor Macosko inquired about the responsibilities of the committee. Ms. Peterson responded that it is responsible for formulating and recommending to the Senate policies pertaining to all student affairs and all University-registered student organizations that are not within the control or supervision of any other group. It also provides a link between the Administration and student organizations. Ms. Canney added that the Student Development Office finds the committee very valuable in providing guidance and advice. Other members added that in the past the Administration has been very responsive to concerns brought forward by the Committee. For example, a recommendation concerning library hours resulted in the University changing the library hours to better accommodate student needs, a recommendation on busing resulted in an increase in University buses, and a resolution brought to the University Senate on student study space resulted in the expansion of study space on campus.

With regard to graduate students, one person suggested it might be helpful to have someone from the Graduate School Dean's office serve as an ex officio member. It appears that the graduate students are under-represented on the Committee. The Committee on Committees will be encouraged to fill the remaining graduate student position.

In Jesse Berglund's absence, Ms. Peterson announced approval of the Resolution on Tuition by the Student Senate on December 3. The statement supported the administration's proposal for an

average 3% tuition increase for the 1999-2000 academic year, and advocates for the administration to increase financial aid to account for the increase.

6. New Business

Ed Ehlinger brought to the Committee a proposal for a trial change in the way the health service fee pays for services at Boynton Health Service (BHS). Currently, all services provided to students through BHS are paid by the health service fee portion of the student services fee, with a few exceptions. The primary objective for the experiment is to determine if billing insurance companies first for all services will generate enough additional net revenue so that future health service fee increases can be kept to a minimum or actually reduced. Savings may also be used to provide additional or improved services. Secondly, the proposal will identify those students (not all) who report during the registration process that they have the mandatory hospitalization insurance, when in fact they do not.

The trial period would be July 1, 1999 through September 30, 2001, and will work as follows:

1. All services (except items generally not covered by insurance) will first be billed to the student's hospitalization insurance plan.
2. The health service fee will pay the balance after insurance except for Boynton established co-pays/co-insurance, not to exceed \$15 per selected service, e.g. mental health, physical therapy, etc. The co-pays and co-insurance may or may not be paid at the time of service. If the student portion is less than \$100 and is not paid at the time of service, the balance will be transferred to the student's "STARS" account.
3. Students without hospitalization insurance will be responsible for the entire health service bill even if they paid the student service fee. The student will also be required to purchase the mandatory student insurance plan if Regent policy applies to them.

The proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Student Health Advisory Committee and will be presented to the Student Services Fees Committee next week. After the trial period, the results will be provided to and discussed by these groups.

One of the reasons BHS has not gone to direct billing in the past has been to protect student privacy. This certainly is an issue that needs to be discussed further.

One student asked whether there could be a middle-of-the-row approach, perhaps by offering students the option to sign a form indicating whether the insurance company should be billed first. This might avoid the confidentiality concern. Mr. Ehlinger thought that would be administratively difficult.

Mr. Ehlinger also raised the potential impact on small insurance plans. For example, if a student has a disability or illness and is covered under his/her parents' insurance plan, that insurance company will now be billed for the medical expenses. Formerly, all the expenses were covered by BHS. This may result in small insurance plans dropping a family or significantly raising rates.

If the change is enacted, and that will be at the recommendation of the Fees Committee, it will require extensive education, said Mr. Ehlinger. One of the major reasons cited for students not completing their education has been financial difficulties caused by health problems. That is a primary reason why the Regents require that students have insurance. One hospitalization can have a catastrophic effect on a student.

The University has a policy that functions with the student service fee. For approximately \$90 per month a student can have full coverage under a managed care plan. Coverage for dependents is at an additional cost.

Ms. Peterson thanked Mr. Ehlinger for the report.

7. Parking Issues

Next, Ms. Peterson raised a parking issue that recently came to her attention. It is her understanding that there is a proposal to put in place in St. Paul all of the policies that govern parking in Minneapolis. This would mean a number of changes in St. Paul, such as managing some pay lots after they have normally been closed, thus preventing students from parking free after a certain point in time. It appears this is a 'fait accompli' which concerned the committee greatly as it should have been brought through appropriate Senate committees.

After some discussion, the following motion was moved, seconded and approved:

The Student Affairs Committee does not see a substantial reason for enforcing uniform parking policies on the St. Paul and Minneapolis campuses and would like to hear a rationale on this new policy.

Ms. Peterson will forward the motion to Mr. Robert Baker, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, and invite him to the next meeting to discuss the new parking regulations.

The committee also expressed interest in having someone speak with the Committee about the Enterprise project.

Before adjourning, Ms. Peterson announced that she has been asked to join the Finance and Planning Committee meeting to discuss the Aramark contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

-- Martha Kvanbeck