

EQUITY, ACCESS & DIVERSITY
MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2005

[In these minutes: Strategize Next Steps Related to the Strategic Positioning Initiative, Research Funding at the University and its Implications, Collaboration with Social Concerns Committee]

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities 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: Naomi Scheman, chair, Patricia Jones-Whyte, Don Cavalier, Kimberly Simon for Julie Sweitzer, Claire Walter-Marchetti, Jennifer Gunn, Ruth-Ellen Joeres, Jooinn Lee, Joanna O'Connell, Lee Penn

REGRETS: Jeff Bieganeck, Margaret Moss, Si Chen, Andrea Williams

ABSENT: Audrey Boyle, Geoffrey Maruyama, Benjamin Clarke

I). Professor Scheman called the meeting to order.

II). Professor Scheman requested that the committee strategize its next steps related to strategic positioning. She asked members their thoughts on what else can be done with the documents it produced, the risk assessment and the blueprint for transformation (<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/committees/ead.html>), above and beyond what has already done. To date, these documents have been distributed to the chairs and co-chairs of each of strategic positioning committees as well as to the Minnesota Daily. She also suggested that the committee divide up and review the preliminary strategic positioning reports that are due out today, paying particular attention to the College Design: GC/CEHD report.

To increase the visibility of the documents it produced, members suggested:

- Following up with each of the strategic positioning committee's chairs and co-chairs to verify they received the documents, and, if they have not already done so, request that they share these documents with their respective committees.
- Requesting that the documents be posted to the strategic positioning website. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, reported that she has already contacted Grant Moos in University Relations to see if it will be possible to post EAD's documents on this site. Mr. Moos is checking and will get back to her soon.
- Asking the Minnesota Daily to do a press release on these documents.
- Distributing the documents to groups on campus that focus on diversity issues.

Regarding what to do with the College Design: GC/CEHD report, Professor Scheman suggested exploring the feasibility of collaborating with other faculty, staff and students

concerned with the closing of GC. Professor Scheman will attempt to set up a meeting with interested EAD members and others within the University community before the holiday break for purposes of strategizing next steps. Members were encouraged to attend the GC rally on Thursday, December 15th.

Next, Professor Scheman asked for volunteers to review the preliminary strategic positioning reports that are due out today. It was suggested that each of the reports be reviewed with general equity, access and diversity considerations in mind, and that volunteers jot down their thoughts and forward them via email to Renee Dempsey and Professor Scheman who would compile the comments into a single document, which will be distributed to members. Committee members and their strategic positioning report assignments are listed below:

- College Design: CNR/COAFES/CHE – Naomi Scheman
- College Design: CALA/CHE – Claire Walter Marchetti
- College Design: CHE/CEHD – Don Cavalier
- College Design: GH/CEHD – EAD
- Graduate Reform: Student Support – Jennifer Gunn
- Undergraduate Reform: Student Support – Patricia Jones-Whyte
- Undergraduate Reform: Honors – Lee Penn
- Undergraduate Reform: Writing – Joanna O’Connell
- Diversity – Kimberly Simon
- International University – Ruth Ellen Joeres
- PreK-12 Strategy – Geoff Maruyama

Professor Scheman requested that members submit their comments by January 10, 2006. Then, once the implementation plans from the Administrative Service and Productivity Task Forces are available in early January, Professor Scheman will send out an email asking for volunteers to review these documents as well.

III). Professor Scheman brought to members’ attention an article in the December 10th edition of the Star Tribune, ‘U Slips in Rank of Funds for Research’, from which she read several excerpts. She noted that while this article does not represent anything new for the University, this research funding issue could be used as yet another reason for the University to avoid addressing equity and diversity issues.

IV). Professor Scheman noted that oftentimes there exists an overlap in the issues dealt with by the Social Concerns Committee and the Senate Committee on Equity, Access and Diversity. Members agreed with this observation, and suggested that when this occurs, the committee’s should work collaboratively.

Professor Scheman agreed to contact Professor Ken Heller, chair of the Social Concerns Committee, to express EAD’s desire to work together on issues of mutual interest to both committees. During this conversation, Professor Scheman will ask Professor Heller, what, if anything, the Social Concerns Committee plans to do regarding the Solomon Amendment issue, which it took up at its November meeting. EAD had also heard a report on this issue in January 2005, but never took any action.

On a semi-related note, Professor Scheman also plans to contact Anne Phibbs, the new GLBT director, to discuss issues that she would like to bring to the attention of EAD.

V). Hearing no further business, Professor Scheman adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate