

Minutes of:

The Student Senate

Thursday, April 5, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

1. Administrative Response to Senate Actions (*Information*)

- **Resolution on revisions to the parental leave policy for graduate students**

Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016

Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on expanding on-campus childcare**

Approved by the Student Senate: November 9, 2017

Administrative Response: PENDING

- **Resolution on measuring and maintaining adequate campus mental health services**

Approved by the Student Senate: March 1, 2018

Administrative Response: PENDING

2. Minutes for November 9, 2017 (*Action*)

Shantal Pai, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate

Motion: To approve the Student Senate [minutes from March 1, 2018](#).

With no discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

3. Senate Committee on Student Affairs Chair Report

Brianne Keeney, chair, Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA)

Shantal Pai, chair, introduced Brianne Keeney, chair, Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA), to give an update on some of the issues and actions the committee has taken on over the past year. Keeney said that this is the second year that the committee has been focused on mental health issues. They invited several speakers, including Lauren Mitchell, president, Council of Graduate Students (COGS) to present a resolution on measuring and maintaining adequate mental health services at the University. The resolution was unanimously endorsed by the committee.

The committee received regular updates from system campuses student affairs offices. Several of the issues focused on mental health, international and immigrant students, on-campus dining, student legal services, on and off-campus housing, and police interactions with students. The committee also addressed two policies: the Trans and Gender Nonconforming Policy as well as a review of the policy regarding alleged violations of the Student Conduct Code.

Jonathan Borowsky, senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), asked for more clarification of the policy regarding the Student Conduct Code. Keeney responded that the review was to address changes in some of the terminology of the Student Conduct Code and other new policies that have been recently approved such as the policies on sexual and domestic assault. Hunter Pederson, senator, CLA, asked if students on the committee had any concerns about freedom of speech. Keeney said that she had not heard any of those concerns during committee.

4. Assembly/Association Updates

- Ruby Debellis, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) member, University of Minnesota - Morris (UMM), said that they had just elected their new senators for the 2018-19 academic year. She said that UMM had 45 students sign up for Support the U Day at the Capitol on April 10th. The city of Morris is planning on decreasing the number of polling sites within the city from six sites to just three. One of the polling sites recommended to be eliminated is the site on the Morris campus. Another issue is a letter that has been drafted by the Morris Consultative Committee to the UMM Chancellor about the lack of transparency in the consolidation of offices around campus. That letter could become a resolution by the Morris Campus Student Government. Debellis introduced Sam Rosemeyer who was attending the meeting and will be a new student senator from Morris next year.
- Ethan Johnson, SSCC member, University of Minnesota - Crookston (UMC), reported that student elections will be held the week of April 9th. Mary Holz-Clause, UMC's new chancellor, will be inaugurated on April 6th. Today, a few members of the Board of Regents are in town. Also, UMC has 25 students registered for Support the U Day.

- Austin Evenson, SSCC member, University of Minnesota - Duluth (UMD), announced that they too are planning on attending Support the U Day. They are also working to revise course evaluation processes.
- Taylor Cronen, SSCC member, University of Minnesota - Rochester (UMR), said that they have been working with their curriculum committee on changes that are expected to be implemented starting in the fall. Work on student elections and campaigns are underway. UMR plans on having a few representatives at Support the U Day as well.
- Brianna Hanson, SSCC member, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), asked senators to register for Support the U Day if they haven't already done so. She said that the "It Ends Here" campaign about sexual assault awareness launched yesterday. There are two resolutions, free speech and right to protest, that MSA is working on and could possibly be coming before the Student Senate in May. Student elections concluded about three weeks ago so they have a new body of representatives and student senators.
- Nick Ames, SSCC member, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), said that their most recent meeting dealt with the discussions around renaming Coffman Memorial Union, however no action was taken on the issue. They also had a discussion about the preferred pronouns issue. Pai noted that Ames recently graduated and will no longer be representing COGS on the SSCC. She asked the body to acknowledge him with applause and thanked him for his service.
- Matthew Berg, SSCC member, Professional Student Group (PSG), said that PSG is organizing around Support the U Day. They recently made some code changes within their organization and are looking into constitutional changes within PSG as well. They also have newly elected officers. Berg said he is working on a transition plan for next year for PSG representation on the SSCC and Student Senate. He is also on the Provost's Child Care Advisory Committee and said he was open to feedback on that issue.

5. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report

Shantal Pai, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate

Pai opened her remarks by stating there is still a lot of work to do. The Student Senate continues to work on setting the groundwork on issues for future senators to approve. The Student Senate has been working on true collaboration with system campuses and continues to break down barriers. She encouraged everyone to work with and get to know all of the new senators.

Pai noted some upcoming issues as follows:

- Make sure to register for Support the U day.
- The Ad-Hoc Committee on Changes to the Student Conduct Code will be meeting soon. Pai will serve as co-chair of the committee and membership will include faculty and

students. President Kaler and two Regents will also be advising the committee as non-voting participants. The committee will be open to feedback.

- The gender neutral bathrooms resolutions may be coming forward at the May Student Senate meeting.
- Pai will be meeting with incoming student body presidents to make sure they know the value of the senate and how to use it appropriately. If senators want to join those meetings, let her know.
- The SSCC letter in support of the Students Representatives to the Board of Regents (SRBOR) report will be discussed shortly. She noted that this will hopefully show a new level of collaboration.
- The COGS Resolution on Student Mental Health is on the agenda for consideration and vote by the University Senate later today. It is her hope that students will show their support for that resolution by attending the meeting and voting.

Pai opened the floor to questions. Borowsky opined that perhaps the Student Senate should have more committees reporting to it. Pai stated that more input is always important but to not forget the work that is brought forward by the student government groups. It isn't within her plans to create more committees at this time but she is always open to future suggestions.

6. Letter in Support of “New Expectations: The 2017-18 Student Representatives to the Board of Regents Report” (*Action*)

Aleksander Holleran, vice chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate

Aleksander Holleran, vice chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee and Student Senate, introduced the following letter in support of “New Expectations: The 2017-18 Student Representatives to the Board of Regents Report”:

April 5, 2018

President Eric Kaler
Office of the President
University of Minnesota
220 Morrill Hall
100 Church St. SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Dear President Kaler,

As part of our continued commitment to system-wide governance, we, the Student Senate, write to you today to express our support for “New Expectations: 2017-2018 Report of the Student

Representatives to the Board of Regents” (henceforth referred to as the report). The report aligns with the Student Senate’s vision for our campus. This year we have advocated for routinely-evaluated, data-based allocations of child care and mental health funding. A prescribed system that integrates funding for these critical services into the fabric of the University’s administrative and governance processes is essential, not only because it makes a better university for our students, but also because the student vision for our university is bigger than basic services. The report captures the greater vision in its discussion of improving diversity and inclusion efforts, evaluating student data-privacy policies, improving the process for credit-transfer within the system, and encouraging socially responsible contracting. In short, we envision a university that is a global leader through forward-thinking policies that enhance learning and encourage student success.

Considering the strong academic programs and student services offered through our system, we know our vision can be realized. Each of our five campuses offers unique educational opportunities which benefit our state and students. We believe that strategically supporting individual campus excellence while developing policies and systems that promote collaboration is the best way to build a strong University of Minnesota system. The report is consistent with this vision and emphasizes critical areas for policy change and investment to support excellence.

While the University of Minnesota has strong academic programs on all five campuses, it is exceptionally difficult to transfer credits from one program to another. In some cases, even introductory classes or liberal arts courses do not transfer within the system. This barrier makes it difficult for students to take advantage of system-wide course offerings which could strengthen their program of study. As senators, we have heard this concern repeatedly. Students at the Twin Cities want an agronomy program with a strong biology component, but are unable to take advantage of the strong biology program at the Twin Cities and the agronomy program at Crookston. Duluth has a strong water resources program which Morris struggles to offer to their environmental science students because of their location; a program of study between the two campuses would be better for student success and result in future state leaders with a breadth of understanding of statewide ecosystems. Students want to be able to capitalize on the many exceptional programs in the University of Minnesota system, and credit transfers between programs as discussed in the report are one way to meet student interest in several academic disciplines or topic areas.

As we work to develop strong academic programs, it is important to support diversity in the University. The University of Minnesota student body and faculty are consistently non-representative of the state. This does a disservice to our state, which benefits from a highly educated workforce in all communities, and a disservice to our graduates who will seek jobs in a global market that values diversity and cultural understanding. We must commit to serving marginalized communities in accessible ways as part of our educational and land-grant mission. Morris can serve as an example here, with their strong programming in Native American Studies and commitment to engaging the Native American community. To serve these marginalized communities well, departments and programs will need spaces to thrive and academic programs that celebrate and support an understanding of the community. Our facilities must be accessible as possible regardless of ability, and serve students of all gender identities and ethnicities. As the report

says, additional funding allocations to support existing programs will be critical to future growth in this area.

This evolution in academic programming must be joined by a parallel improvement in data privacy policies that address the changing technology students use. While students care about data privacy, they often trust that the University will protect their data. In many ways, the University does an effective job of preserving privacy. Student academic data, visits to the Aurora Center, and meetings with academic advisors are all protected in a way that truly supports student success. However, because the university typically does an excellent job of protecting data, students often fail to realize the way their personal data is used. Things like addresses, phone numbers, and student status are all publicly available unless a student chooses to opt out. While this brings benefits for collaboration, it also leaves students unprotected. In fact, in addition to publishing such personal data, the university website that houses personal data is not even protected from bots that automatically collect data. As senators, we have started discussing the personal data privacy policies with students, and consistently find that students are unpleasantly surprised by how little the University does to protect their data. We strongly support the recommendations made in the report surrounding data privacy, and believe the relatively small changes suggested will be a significant improvement on the current system.

Finally, the report discusses the growing student concern about socially responsible contracting. Students care deeply about the ways the University contracts on our behalf. We regularly hear from students who are concerned about being forced to spend their money with companies who are known for human rights violations, environmentally unsustainable practices, or discriminatory treatment of employees. Just last year, we discussed and passed a resolution requesting that Aramark either change their unethical business practices or that the University contract with different food vendors. Students were excited by this resolution, and we had an astounding turn out from students who are not involved in student governance at the senate meeting where the topic was discussed. While socially responsible contracting is certainly an ambitious goal, the reports suggestion for including it as part of the review process is an elegant way to include the importance of ethics, while also allowing for necessary flexibility in contracting. The University is can be a leader by integrating ethics, along with other important considerations, in contract decision-making.

We, the Student Senate, offer our complete support of the report. The topics were chosen in consultation with student senate leaders and student senators, and are based on an ambitious vision for the University. We want to emphasize that, while student services funding for mental health, child care, and sexual assault resources were not included in the report, this is not evidentiary of a lack of student concern on the topic. Rather, the omission comes because of a commitment for change from University administration and the Board of Regents and student advocacy for integrating resource allocation for these services directly into the administrative process. While we continue to develop a sustainable program for effectively providing these resources to our students, we also yearn to dream big. The report does just that by painting a picture of what students envision for our University.

Sincerely,

Shantal Pai
Chair, Student Senate
On behalf of the Student Senate

cc: Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota
Julie Christensen, deputy chief of staff, Office of the President
Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office
Jason Langworthy, board associate, policy & committees, Board of Regents
Lyle Peterson, policy coordinator, Office of the President
Brian Steeves, executive director and corporate secretary, Board of Regents

Holleran stated that at 28 pages, it is a long report. The biggest topics included in the report are improved inclusivity and diversity for those with disabilities, student information privacy, consistency in credit transfers, and corporate ethics and responsibility. The report included a lot of consultation with other groups including the SSCC.

Holleran continued that the idea of writing a letter in support of the report is something new and had not been done before. The intent of the letter is to create a bridge with the Student Senate and other student organizations. This gives the Student Senate the ability to have a dialogue with the president on a variety of issues. Holleran wants to have the Student Senate set a new focus and new priorities. He felt that the report could have been more inclusive on other topics but that does not take away from the important matters within the report.

Pai asked if there were any amendments to the letter. Borowsky moved to amend the letter as follows:

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The amendment was incorporated by the letter's authors.

Holleran moved to amend the letter as follows:

As part of our continued commitment to system-wide governance, we, the Student Senate, write to you today to express our support for “New Expectations: 2017-2018 Report of the Student Representatives to the Board of Regents” (henceforth referred to as the report). The report aligns with the Student Senate’s vision for our ~~campus~~ University.

The amendment was incorporated by the letter’s authors.

Pai opened the floor for discussion and senators made comments as follows:

- Lauren Mitchell, senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), said she hasn’t heard students complain about these issues but have heard from them about many other more crucial issues like mental health and sexual assault. She felt that the issues contained in the Student Representatives to the Board of Regents (SRBOR) report are privileged problems and it dilutes the efforts put forward on other issues.
- Adi Penugonda, ranking student senator, SSCC, yielded his time to Nick Ames, former COGS representative, SSCC. Ames said that the letter doesn’t make other issues less important. The Student Senate has addressed these other issues like student mental health as recently as last month. They have also worked to delay the closure of the Child Development Center (CDC). We gain power by building allies. This letter strengthens those alliances with other student organizations. Not all issues can be addressed at once.
- Leticia Wamulumba, senator, Carlson School of Management (CSOM), agreed with Ames. She felt that diversity isn’t a privilege, it should be inherently put into everything we do.
- Hanson agreed that diversity is not a privilege topic. She stated that the SRBOR will draft a separate letter in regards to sexual assault and the Student Senate should work to support that issue as well.
- Borowsky said he will abstain on the vote. He felt that the body should be careful and think about whether sending a letter is a good idea. He thinks the discussion is important but they should be careful with their support and how they represent ourselves to decision makers.
- Hunter Peterson, senator, CLA, said he will vote in favor of the letter. He added that just because some issues were excluded from the report doesn’t mean that those issues aren’t important.
- Salman Ikramuddin, senator, Medical School, said that he is personally involved on the Committee for the President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct. He values that the Student Senate is a productive body and thinks this is something positive we can use to improve issues for students.
- Kelly Wallin, senator, College of Biological Sciences (CBS), said that she agrees with the vast majority of the letter. However, she feels that graduate and professional students are

not well represented in the letter and neither are their concerns. She hopes that moving forward that those students will be recognized.

- Ryan Machtmes, senator, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), joined the general consensus in supporting the report and the letter, yet felt it would have been ideal to include other issues like sexual harassment. He also thought that mental health was indirectly included in report. Disparities in rural mental health is a critical issue. The fact that Morris has only one staff member to handle student mental health is a real issue. The fact that disability access and mental health are incorporated into the diversity piece of the report does shine a light on those issues.
- Mike Kenyanya, ex-officio senator and student body president, UMD, said he appreciated the Student Senate's passion for addressing mental health. He feels that the administration has pledged to continue to work on this and doesn't think working on other topics detracts from the conversation.

Pai closed the discussion, a vote was taken, and the letter was approved. The vote had 34 ayes; 0 nays; and 5 abstaining.

7. Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee Chair Report

Ari Lederman, chair, Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC)

Pai introduced Ari Lederman, chair, Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC). The committee is responsible for taking on issues that are of particular impact to health science students that includes medicine, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, dental hygiene, dental therapy, medical laboratory technology, veterinary medicine, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and public health. These programs are housed across the Twin Cities, Duluth, and Rochester campuses. Lederman gave an overview of the committee's work this year, which included the following issues:

- One of the major initiatives this year has been the construction of the new AHC Health Science Education Center. They are currently knocking down the old VFW and Masonic buildings. The new center will include Active Learning Classrooms (ALCs) similar to those in Bruininks Hall.
- Interprofessional education programs have also been a major point of emphasis for the committee. These programs help students to learn to work with each other across different programs and specialties.
- Recently the AHC Faculty Consultative Committee issued a survey and report regarding the AHC's administrative structure. One of the major questions revolved around one person holding the positions of both dean of the Medical School and vice president of the AHC. Many faculty have opined that they want to restructure that role.

Pai asked how the committee works with system campuses. Lederman said that video conferencing via ITV usually work very well to connect students to different programs. However, he recognizes that many of the system campus students may feel left out when the Twin Cities is about to get a new state-of-the-art facility and they can only call in to those classes. He feels the AHC needs to acknowledge those disparities in resources.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Announcements of Senate Interest

Pai opened the floor to announcements of senate interest. She asked that if senators are working on issues that they thought ought to be brought to the body's attention, they should do so now.

Wamulumba said she is bringing a resolution to MSA and the Student Senate that would add more prayer/meditation spaces to the West Bank campus. Currently, there is not a lot of accessible areas on that campus unless you live or have class in Middlebrook Hall or the Humphrey building.

Mitchell said that the Board of Regents used to offer a chance for the public to attend a meeting to speak on their budget process and proposals. This was a great venue for discussion and protest. Last year the Board discontinued these sessions and opened it to written submissions only. She is currently working on a resolution in COGS to ask the University to return to the in-person forums.

Holleran stated he will be working on the Ad-Hoc Committee on updating the Student Conduct Code and asked people to email him their feedback or opinions on possible changes.

Pederson said MSA is working on a gender neutral restrooms resolution. They would like all campuses to have a policy on the subject. They also desire to change all single occupancy bathrooms to gender neutral and remove the unisex label for a more universal signage. Also, MSA is working on a freedom of speech resolution. People should feel free to reach out if they have input on either topic.

Sarabeth Moore, senator, CEHD, said that she has been in discussions about speaking at President Kaler's press conference coming up in the next few weeks regarding the budget freeze and how it will affect students. She would love to have any input from other senators, especially from other campuses.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office