

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

East Wing Campus Club

1:00 PM

In these minutes:

Announcement re: Chair for 1998-99, Burma Resolution, Culture Fair, Proxy Resolutions, IRRC, Public-Private Partnerships

MINUTES

Present: Eric Bauer (Chair), Lori Clark, Jean Niemiec, Friedrich Srienc, Julie Sweitzer, Robin Brown, George French, Mike Davey, Thomas Haakenson, Mark Ott, Sheila Warness

Regrets: Clint Hewitt, Art Geffen, Joel Nelson, Catherine Forseide

Absent: Carla Maxwell Monacelli, Frank Wood, Chris Kelley, James Kroger, Neta Jo Scarpari

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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

The Social Concerns Committee met at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 1998 in the East Wing of the Campus Club on the East Bank of the University of Minnesota.

MEETING MINUTES.

The meeting minutes from April 2, 1998 were approved as written.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Professor Robin Brown, current member of the Social Concerns Committee, has been nominated as Chair of the committee for the 1998-99 academic year.

BURMA RESOLUTION.

Professor Eric Bauer, Chair, stated that he presented the Social Concerns Committee's Burma Resolution to the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC) on April 30, 1998. He added that the committee recommended changes to the language in the first resolution to indicate that the University should not invest in Total Oil, rather than recommending that the University avoid future investments in Total Oil. Because the stronger wording suggested by

the SCC captures the intent of the Social Concerns Committee, the change will be made. Professor Bauer added that he will present the resolution to the full Senate at its meeting scheduled for May 14, 1998.

CULTURE FAIR.

A working draft of the culture fair was prepared and distributed by Professor George French at the April meeting for review by committee members. Professor French reported that he has begun communicating with a representative of the Ethiopian Student Association who is very interested in the concept of the fair. The representative provided Professor French with an idea of activities within cultural organizations around campus, but indicated that this type of culture fair would be new to most student organizations. He also noted that the representative agreed to contact several cultural organizations around campus to determine their interest in participating in a University-wide culture fair in the spring of 1999. Professor French will mail him a copy of the working draft and will attempt to meet with him before the next meeting as well as other representatives from organizations at the University. It was suggested that Professor French obtain the list serve outside of the GAPSA office (2nd floor-CMU) for easier communication with student organizations.

PROXY RESOLUTIONS.

Professor Bauer distributed a resolution for CBS by e-mail to committee members before the meeting, but only received 4 votes in favor of the resolution; therefore, the University of Minnesota on this particular resolution cast no vote.

The committee voted on the following resolutions at the meeting:

Ahmanson, Norwest, & Summit Bancorp

Equal Credit Opportunity - The committee voted in favor of the resolution.

Robin Brown will write up this resolution.

Ford Motor

Executive Compensation - The committee voted in favor of supporting the resolution.

Robin Brown will write up this resolution.

Home Depot

EEO Information - The committee voted in favor of supporting the resolution.

Eric Bauer will write up this resolution.

American International Group

Board Diversity - The committee voted in favor of supporting the resolution.

Mike Davey will write up this resolution.

Kohls & May Department Store

Supplier Labor Standards - The committee voted in favor of supporting the resolution.

IRRC.

The Social Concerns Committee receives reports from the IRRC regarding socially responsible investment information. A recent report of the IRRC described the University of Minnesota's sale of Total Oil stock and indicated that the Social Concerns Committee passed a resolution in March of 1998, even though no one on the committee was contacted for this information. The information in that issue of the IRRC is incorrect since the resolution was not passed until April, 1998. Both Professor Bauer and Sheila Warness, Asset Management, contacted representatives of the IRRC and reported the error. The IRRC agreed to modify their electronic version of the report, but cannot report the correction in the paper copy until next year.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Committee member Mike Davey presented an idea to the Social Concerns Committee for the development of a policy for socially responsible public-private partnerships. Because President Yudof has indicated that the University will be moving in the direction of more public-private partnerships, Mike asked committee members to consider recommending an advisory mechanism in the initial stages of forming and developing these types of partnerships as well as when the partnerships are up for renewal. Sheila Warness stated that she will forward a report on University public-private partnerships for distribution to the full committee. The internal policy and procedures focus group will discuss the idea further before the next meeting; comments and suggestions regarding this idea can be e-mailed to Mike Davey at dave0014@tc.umn.edu.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30PM.