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# The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minutes of:

## The Student Senate

Thursday, November 4, 2021

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

Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate, called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

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

- [Resolution on Demilitarization of UMN Policing Forces](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: February 25, 2021

Administrative Response: Pending

- [Resolution Concerning Caste-Based Discrimination](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: September 30, 2021

Administrative Response: Pending

### 2. Approval of the Minutes for Previous Student Senate Meetings (*Action*)

*Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

**Motion:** To approve the minutes from the following Student Senate meetings:

- [September 30, 2021, Regular Meeting](#)

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

### 3. Assembly/Association Updates (*Information*)

*All members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)*

- Karen Coenen, SSCC member, Rochester Student Association (RSA), stated that RSA has recently filled all of its board positions and have been discussing their attendance policies.
- Dylan Young, SSCC member, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), stated that while the MCSA is celebrating the new systemwide tuition waiver program for Native

American students, they are hoping to do further work to promote the easing of eligibility requirements for the program.

- Karissa Grapes, SSCC member, Professional Student Government (PSG), said that PSG has been busy awarding various grants as well as working on a resolution concerning class modalities to allow students greater flexibility for attending class if they are ill or have another excused absence.
- Richard Gonigam, speaker, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), stated that COGS has been primarily discussing issues surrounding affordable access to parking. Additionally, they are preparing for their once-a-semester meeting with President Joan Gabel.
- Nick Wallenhorst, SSCC member, Minnesota Student Association (MSA), said that the members of MSA are working on two ad-hoc committees, one dealing with student minimum wage and the other with campus safety on the Twin Cities campus. He also stated that Twin Cities senators have been actively meeting with their respective college boards.
- Lucas Simpson, ex-officio representative, Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), reported that the committee recently discussed issues related to liberal education updates for curriculum starting in 2025. The committee has also been busy working on academic calendars and the possible implications of the new Juneteenth holiday. Simpson said he has been selected to serve on a task force to review all calendars from 2024 onward to make sure that important dates, including religious holidays, have the opportunity to be observed. SCEP also had a discussion about supply chain issues with textbooks at the bookstore.
- Nam Nguyen, student senator, University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD), said that the UMD Student Association has been working on several issues, including dining hall hours and staffing, a campus climate change proposal, and the possibility of student legal services. Nguyen also acknowledged that UMD Chancellor Lendley Black has announced his impending retirement.

#### **4. Student Senate/Student Senate Consultative Committee Chair Report (*Information*)**

*Sarani Millican, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate*

Millican provided her report in which she stated that there will be a special meeting of the Board of Regents next Monday for the purpose of selecting a new chief auditor and approving a new contract agreement for the head football coach. Millican added that she too would soon have a meeting with President Gabel and asked members for any input or issues that they feel she should raise. She further noted that due to the new federal COVID-19 vaccine mandate, student workers who are paid through federal grants will be required to comply with vaccine verification policies. Finally, Millican stated that she has been involved with the interviewing process for the new director of the University Senate Office. She then encouraged members to utilize time after this meeting to workshop and brainstorm their advocacy issues for the remainder of the school year.

#### **5. Minnesota Student Association (MSA) Ad-Hoc Committee on Student Minimum Wage (*Discussion*)**

*Nicholas Wallenhorst, SSCC member, Minnesota Student Association (MSA)*

*Carter Yost, student senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA)*

Millican introduced Wallenhorst and Carter Yost, student senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), who are working with MSA on an ad-hoc committee on student minimum wage. Yost stated that MSA is trying to work as collaboratively as possible in order to raise the student minimum wage on the Twin Cities campus, which is currently set at \$10.08 per hour. Many students feel that this wage is too low, especially given the current minimum wage of Minneapolis and its surrounding municipalities.

Yost continued by stating that the committee plans to work in three phases in order to bring forward a resolution. The first phase is currently in progress and includes research and stakeholder identification. The second phase will involve the drafting of the resolution and subsequent consultation. The final phase surrounds advocacy work and passage of the resolution, including through the Student Senate. Yost further clarified that the intent would be for a policy change to impact all campuses and that the student minimum wage would match that of the municipality in which each campus resides.

Simpson applauded these efforts as a student worker himself and noted that according to some of his supervisors, the University consistently looks to be in the middle of the Big Ten rankings when it comes to student wages. Abdulaziz Mohamed, student body president, MSA, appreciated those comments and feels that the University needs to be a leader on this front. He plans to partner with other Big Ten institutions to plan and advocate for higher wages.

Wallenhorst commented that the committee would welcome input and participation from students at the other four system campuses as well in order to make sure that as many students are consulted with as possible. Yost added that it is important to clarify that these changes are meant to provide a living wage for students on their respective campus.

#### **6. Old Business**

There was no old business.

#### **7. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office