
The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)

March 7, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration or the Board of Regents. The University Senate Office utilized notes taken during the meeting, video recording and transcript of the meeting, and AI to assist in summarizing substantive parts of the meeting transcript to compose these minutes. Minutes are reviewed by the committee before posting.

[**In these minutes:** Consultation on the Conflict Resolution Process for Student Academic Complaints: Twin Cities; Consultation on the Administrative Policy on Conflict Resolution for Faculty, P&A, Civil Service, and Student Workers; System Campus/Association Reports; Chair's Report]

PRESENT: Taiwo Aremu, Ethan Fiegel, Jack Bellinger, Kaitlyn Roers, Dannah Nephew, Chase Krug, Sam Schmall, Hailee Eidelbes, William Walstrom

REGRETS: None

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: Donovan Lura, senate assistant, University Senate Office

1. Call to order

Taiwo Aremu, chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Aremu asked for those present to introduce themselves.

2. Consultation on the Conflict Resolution Process for Student Academic Complaints: Twin Cities

Toni Abts and Anne Barnes came to the committee for a policy consultation. They provided the [amended policy](#) and [procedure](#) for students to report academic complaints. The majority of the changes have been made in the policy's procedures and can be seen in red text. Removing language about Title IX complaints was one of the larger changes to the policy. This used to be a policy to address those concerns, but a new, separate policy has been created for the Equal Opportunity and Title IX office to administer.

Aremu asked about the reasoning for the time allocated for the appeals process. The policy gives a student 10 days to request an appeal and the response is given within 30 days. Aremu explained that he could see this extended length of time causing distress for a student. Abts explained that the appeal is to review the student's due process rights and not the facts of the case itself. The time for appeal decisions allows for the Provost to do their own investigation.

3. Consultation on the [Administrative Policy on Conflict Resolution for Faculty, P&A, Civil Service, and Student Workers](#)

Tina Marisam, the director and Title IX Coordinator, gave an overview of the proposed changes to the policy. The policies provided a framework for resolving workplace conflicts, with options for informal conflict resolution services and a formal petition process. The informal services included confidential consultations, facilitated dialogues, and information gathering to resolve conflicts. The formal petition process allowed employees to seek a formal hearing if they felt a university rule or regulation had been

violated. The policy was available to non-labor-represented faculty, P&A staff, civil service staff, student employees, faculty emeriti, and recently terminated employees in limited situations.

Marisam clarified that managers and supervisors were required to participate in facilitated dialogues if requested by the Office for Conflict Resolution. She also mentioned that the formal petition process had undergone significant changes due to a reorganization within the Office for Equity and Diversity. To better align jobs and procedures, the formal petition process was moved to the grievance process manager in OED. The policy now had separate procedures for informal and formal processes.

Discrimination complaints would be addressed exclusively through the administrative policy on discrimination and not through the conflict resolution petition process. The policy clarified that a violation of a rule, policy, or procedure was required to initiate a petition process. Marisam highlighted the detailed procedures, timelines, and types of permissible evidence in the petition process. The possibility of arbitration was removed, and an internal appeal process was provided instead.

3. System Campus Association Reports

The Student Senate meeting happened the day prior and there weren't any new updates.

4. Chair's Report

Aremu had a few updates to share with the group. He recently received a 10 year enrollment report on indigenous students and he would be forwarding that to everyone. Aremu thanked Duluth for hosting the Student Senate meeting the day prior. Aremu also mentioned that he had added the newly appointed Student Senators to the Canvas course and they would be receiving a welcome email from him shortly.

5. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Aremu adjourned the meeting.

John Lof

University Senate Office