
The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minutes of:

The Student Senate

Thursday, February 23, 2023

1. Call to Order

Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Chair Pavan Guttipatti called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

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

- [Resolution on Stipend and Tuition Archive Transparency \(STAT\)](#)

Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2022

Administrative Response: PENDING

3. Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee - Approval of Appointed Senators (*Action*)

Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Chris Stallard, chair, Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee

Motion: To approve the appointment of the following Twin Cities student senators, as selected by the Student Senate Nominating Subcommittee:

Design - Elier Meraz

Nursing- Stephen Stockman

CCAPS - Samra Bojcic

CEHD - Jacob Otis

CEHD - Adrian Forbs

CLA - Ethan Fiegel

CLA - Natalie Doebler

CLA - Ranjani Hariharan

CLA - Maxfield Theroux

CLA - Romello Lloyd

CSE - Tejesh Cheepuru

CSOM - Evan Ramseth

Note: There are also new senators from Crookston and Duluth including:

Crookston - Madison Elijah
Crookston - Rachel Meany
Duluth - Business and Economics - Ethan Ion
Duluth - Science and Engineering - Ben Osei-Tutu

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

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

Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

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

- [November 3, 2022 Regular Meeting](#)

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

5. Assembly/Association Updates (*Information*)

All members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)

- Gwen Vu, SSCC representative, Undergraduate Student Government (USG), announced that USG is meeting with President Joan Gabel at its March 14, 2023 meeting and they have recently passed two resolutions relating to snow removal on sidewalks and anti-hazing.
- MK Wolken, SSCC representative, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), said that they have been working on several reports since the fall semester on graduate student pay and will be holding several meetings in the near future including with President Gabel.
- Dannah Nephew, SSCC representative, Professional Student Government (PSG), said that PSG is working on its annual PSG gala celebration set for March 17th at the Macnamara Center. Additionally, she met with the executive medical school student council board last week to push to get student government as an excused absence in the Medical School, as it is currently not.
- Alex Christen, SSCC representative, Crookston Student Association (CSA), said that they are currently planning a commuter appreciation event, recently appointed all of their senator positions, and are working to clean and revamp the CSA offices which have remained untouched since the pandemic.
- Henry Hauser, SSCC representative, Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA), noted that MCSA recently passed a resolution calling for the renovation of meditation spaces. They are also planning on sending letters to the legislature to further advocate for University funding. Finally, they are attempting to amend policy to make a mental health day an excused absence.

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

Pavan Guttipatti, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Guttipatti then presented his report where he welcomed the newest members of the Student Senate and asked them to use their voice to make a difference. He stated that the SSCC recently

discussed multiple resolutions that will be presented later and encouraged senators to get any more resolutions that they have been working on submitted as soon as possible.

7. Resolution on Ensuring the Possibility of a Living Wage (Discussion)

Adam Sychla, vice chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) and Student Senate

Sychla presented a resolution aimed at ensuring a possibility of a living wage which also took aim at the subject of wage caps, the maximum amount an employee can earn in their specific job. He noted that he has worked with Henry Hubred and Henry Hauser from Morris, and P&A Senator Kit Breshears. He explained that wage caps can be at a level below the cost of living as established by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). The resolution asked for the administration to raise any wage cap to above the DEED cost of living for a 100% appointment. It also calls for graduate students to earn twice as much as the cost of living due to the fact that graduate students are by default 50% employees and are not allowed to take a second job.

Guttiatti asked for clarification on any pushback for this resolution and Sychla stated that maximum wage is something that isn't often discussed and could possibly be a way to prevent embezzlement. Chris Stallard, student senator, CLA suggested that adjustments be made to account for the six counties where the five campuses reside. Multiple members expressed their appreciation and support for the resolution.

8. Revisions to the Student Senate Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules (Discussion)

Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office

Guttiatti introduced Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office who provided an overview on proposed changes to the Student Senate governing documents. He noted that in any organized society or body, it is important that its governing documents are up to date and remain relevant. Periodic reviews of governing documents should occur on a timely basis. For the University Senate, no such comprehensive review has been conducted in a few decades. Therefore, in 2019, the University Senate Office began a comprehensive review process. In February 2021, a work group was formed.

Kwapick further stated that these proposed changes are quite similar to the changes presented at the University Senate meeting last month and gave a high-level review of the proposed changes. Adrian Forbs, student senator, CLA, asked a clarifying question about the removal of senior administrators being eligible for ex-officio membership to the Student Senate and Kwapick stated this was removing boilerplate language that has never been utilized. Kwapick further clarified that they are amending language for appointing senators when there is a vacancy to reflect a change made in 2017. Neville Williams, student senator, Carlson School of Management (CSOM), asked if this will allow for flexibility in future voting technology and Kwapick acknowledged it would.

9. Comprehensive review of the Administrative Policy: Resolving Alleged Student Conduct Code Violations (Information)

- [Memo](#)

- January 2023. Comprehensive review.
 - Educational & DEI updates - Updated the usage of the term “disciplinary process” with “student conduct process” to focus on a more educational, as opposed to punitive, response. Ensure any non-inclusive language is removed. Identify if any new definitions need to be added to aid in readability and understanding.
 - Clarification - This Administrative Policy applies where an outcome is sought for an alleged violation of Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code, except that alleged violations of Section IV, subdivision 9, of the Student Conduct Code are governed by Administrative Policy: Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, Stalking and Relationship Violence.
 - Campus procedure updates - Ensure the correct provisions of the updated Student Conduct Code are referenced as well as the correct campus wide student conduct hearing bodies, processes, and procedures.
 - Technology updates - Ensure the policies reflect today’s updated technology standard in regard to record keeping.

10. Old Business

- [Resolution to Increase Stipend Awards for Undergraduate Research Programs](#)
 - *Christopher Stallard, student senator, College of Science & Engineering (CSE)*

Stallard announced that due to progress with administration, this resolution was no longer needed and he withdrew its consideration.

11. New Business

There was no new business.

12. Announcements

Senators Nicole Tran, Williams, and Wolken all announced that they have projects that they would like to work on and that Zoom breakout rooms would be available after the conclusion of the meeting.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office