

[In these minutes: IT Governance, SRQs, Tobacco-free campus]

STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC) MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2013

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Adam Matula (chair), Ben Baglio, Brandon Breuer, Nicole Conti, Gyaltsso Gurung, Joe Inhofer, Vivek Nagaraj, and Moshe Volovik.

ABSENT: Nathaniel Schwab, Evan Vogel.

ABSENT: Brad Cohen, Bernard Gulachek.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Adam Matula reported that Support the U day was successful this year and SAC would be meeting on February 27.

2. STUDENT ASSOCIATION/ASSEMBLY UPDATES

Joe Inhofer said that RSA is working on elections.

Brandon Breuer noted that UMDSA is focused on lobbying and participated in St. Louis County Day yesterday.

Gyaltsso Gurung noted that CSA has a full board meeting today.

Moshe Volovik said that MSA held a leadership reception and passed a resolution supporting an opt-out system for student release questions.

Nicole Conti reported that GAPSA is focused on its redesign, open access textbooks, and the DREAM Act.

3. IT GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Bernard Gulachek and Brad Cohen from the Office of Information Technology (OIT) joined the meeting to get a student perspective on important areas in which OIT should be investing going forward.

Bernard Gulachek stated that Vice President Scott Studham has been at the University for one year and is looking at how information technology is financed. He is seeking broad and deep input into this issue. OIT currently spends \$192 million per year, which is only six percent of the University's total expenses, but it supports 22 business services in 8 categories. Input that is being gathered through these sessions will be synthesized and run through a decision-making model which includes financial considerations before changes are executed. OIT does not want to make its own decisions but instead be responsive to users.

Brad Cohan acknowledged that the University's needs exceed its available funding so clear priorities need to be developed to best manage the funding to meet the most needs. Priorities will be developed by meeting with users, while OIT leadership will determine which are needs

versus basic requirements, as well as what current technology might be sacrificed to make room for something new. These decisions will be recalibrated each year as technology and needs change.

Q: Will a survey be conducted?

A: Yes. It will be broad but brief, and is meant to highlight services that are currently underperforming.

Q: How will conflicting needs be determined?

A: OIT hopes that users will determine a clear priority, but if not then the executive leaders will make this determination.

Brad Cohen then noted that PeopleSoft is the central system for the University for human resources, finances, and student services. This system is undergoing a multi-year, \$86 million upgrade which is not part of the yearly OIT technology expense. The University's web portal is also being upgraded as part of this project.

Members made the following comments:

- More online classes should be offered in the summer as it is easier for students to take them when they are living and working somewhere else for these months [OIT is hearing a similar message from the President and Provost]
- Google technology literacy is very helpful as it lets everyone use the available technology better
- Staff still struggle with Moodle so some students have an imperfect experience
- More OIT staff should be available to work with faculty who want to update their courses
- Uniformity is needed across the University when incorporating technology in courses
- There are barriers in the registration system due to the order of the process
- Five different Google instances, one for each campus, should be consolidated to eliminate barriers to sharing data [This is being addressed by OIT]
- There are still issues when Moodle breaks down; communication to students needs to be improved in these situations
- Eliminate the two sign-in system [ID management is part of the PeopleSoft upgrade]

4. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT RELEASE QUESTIONS

Adam Matula reported that MSA is pushing for a an opt-out system for student release questions (SRQs) but according to the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) this option is not legal under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. He informed Marissa Kramer in MSA of the OGC stance which then prompted a request to split the questions and allow the ones that do not refer to the instructor to be opt-out and the others to be opt-in. This strategy needs to be presented to the Office of Measurement Services (OMS), who administers the surveys and collects the data.

5. DISCUSSION OF FEBRUARY 28 STUDENT SENATE AGENDA

Due to a lack of agenda items, a vote was taken to cancel this meeting.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Members mentioned the DREAM Act, fare-free light rail zone, and Boynton concerns as topics for future meetings.

7. DISCUSSION OF A TOBACCO-FREE TWIN CITIES CAMPUS BY TWIN CITIES SSCC MEMBERS

The Twin Cities members then discussed what type of statement to present to the Student Senate in April for action. It was decided that a supportive statement for a tobacco-free campus would be written.

With no further business, Adam Matula thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate