

**2011-12 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

**DECEMBER 1, 2011**

**STUDENT SENATE MINUTES: No. 2**

The second meeting of the Student Senate for 2011-12 was convened in 25 Mondale Hall on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 11:33 a.m. Coordinate campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing the roll as present were 33 student members. Chair Adam Matula presided.

**1. STUDENT SENATE NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE  
Approval of Appointed Senators  
Action**

**MOTION:**

That the Student Senate approve the appointment of the following Twin Cities student senators:

Catherine Brumm, School of Dentistry  
Ziran Dai, College of Liberal Arts  
Mark Hanson, Carlson School of Management  
Lucas Huibregtse, College of Liberal Arts  
Charles Kaul, College of Continuing Education  
David Kraft, College of Liberal Arts  
Jonathan Morris, College of Science and Engineering  
Hayden Rensch, College of Design  
Phil Roban, Medical School  
Andrew Timm, College of Liberal Arts

**ADAM MATULA, CHAIR  
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**DISCUSSION:**

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

**APPROVED**

**2. P&A SENATE UPDATE**

**For Information:**

The P&A Senate represents the academic professional and administrators (P&A) class of 5400 non-unionized employees at the University. This class was started in 1980 and the governance body was formed as an advisory committee to the President. P&A have skills between civil service employees and faculty in jobs such as teachers, researchers, advisors, counselors, and extension service workers. Most people stay in this classification or move to a faculty position. P&A employee have some of the same benefits as faculty, but work on annually renewable contracts.

The P&A Senate meets from 9:30-11:30 am the first Friday of most months and meetings are open to the public. The P&A Senate consists of 40 representatives from campus units and

colleges and has four subcommittees: Benefits and Compensation, Communications, Outreach, and Professional Development and Recognition.

**Discussion:**

Ann Hagen, Vice Chair of the P&A Senate, said that she also serves as the Chair-elect this year. At the November meeting the P&A Senate heard a presentation on the Office of Human Resources strategic planning, met with the Chair of the Benefits Advisory Committee who talked about the 34 percent increase in health care costs for employees in 2012, and received the annual report from the Office of Conflict Resolution. President Kaler will be speaking at tomorrow's meeting along with Donna Peterson from Government Relations.

The P&A Senate has been involved in making P&A employees eligible for two University teaching awards, the searches for the Provost and Chief Information Officer, and resolution of the 27 pay period issue from last year. The P&A Senate hopes to establish a close partnership with the Student Senate and has invited Chair Adam Matula to speak at tomorrow's meeting.

### **3. CIVIL SERVICE SENATE UPDATE**

**For Information:**

The Civil Service Senate represents the approximately 4300 employees in the civil service category which includes accountants, scientists, executive assistants, and administrators. The classification was started in 1945 with the passage of the civil service rules by the Regents. In 1984 PELRA was passed which allowed for the creation of a bargaining unit separate from civil service employees.

The Civil Service Senate is composed of 50 elected members. The body elects a vice chair each year, with the vice chair becoming next year's chair. The Civil Service Senate meets twice per year.

**Discussion:**

Don Cavalier, Chair of the Civil Service Senate, said that President Kaler attended the November Civil Service Consultative Committee (CSCC) meeting. The CSCC has also been discussing the results from this summer's survey of all civil service employees. Three main items emerged from that survey – compensation and benefits, supervisor and supervision relations, and reviewing recent changes to the Regents Scholarship program. There are four subcommittees in the Civil Service Senate that will be working on these issues, including advocacy for the University with the legislature.

### **4. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

Adam Matula, Student Senate and Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Chair, said that this year the Student Senate is focusing on addressing three main categories of issues.

First is increasing communication internally and externally. Internally in the sense that the general consensus among student senators that the student body is not well informed about who the Student Senate is and what it does and externally in how the Student Senate expresses its message to the state legislature and the broader state community. The Student Senate is fortunate to be working with Vickie Courtney from the Senate Office to partner with University

Relations to 'brand' the Student Senate in the student body. The Student Senate also has had discussions about the possibility of beginning a biweekly newsletter to keep people up to date and have considered adding a communications officer position. The Student Senate joined the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition (MSLC) by selecting an ex officio member from the body to represent the Student Senate voice within that organization and are eager to work with the MSLC going forward to maximize the impact students can have on the State Legislature.

The second category is student health and well-being. The first big initiative on this front is the Resolution on Pedestrian and Bicyclist Concerns on today's agenda. Another item SSCC discussed regards vegetarian and vegan dining options here on campus. A petition was recently circulated among the student body and garner significant student support so this is an issue the Consultative Committee is eager to address.

Lastly is academics and finances. SSCC has discussed the issue of differential tuition and this is another item on today's agenda. Professor Chris Cramer, Chair of the Senate Consultative Committee, will be at the December 8 SSCC meeting to discuss proposed changes to grade reporting on transcripts in the University of Minnesota system.

## **5. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES**

**Crookston** – Angela Bartholomew said that CSA is wrapping up for the year with a final assembly meeting today. It is also participating in the community's Winter Wonderland tomorrow along with 11 other clubs.

**Duluth** – Harrison Defries stated that UMDSA has been working on a survey of student concerns, the affordability and availability of textbook rentals, fundraising, and distributing funding to student groups.

**Morris** – Andy Showalter reported that MCSA has approved a revolving fund for allocation of its technology fee money.

**Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition** – Andy Showalter said that MSLC is working on details for the annual Support the U Day at the capital.

**Rochester** – Courtnee Heyduk noted that RSA is working to improve commons spaces on campus and is revising its election process, advertising policy, and website.

**Graduate and Professional Student Assembly** – Emily Combs reported that GAPSA voted to join MSLC and passed a resolution on transparency in collegiate fees that should be brought to the Student Senate next semester.

**Minnesota Student Association** - Lizzy Shay said that MSA will be holding a student town hall meeting next Tuesday from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Mississippi Room. This is a chance for students to ask questions of administrators, including Vice Provost Rinehart, Vice Provost McMaster, Chief Hestness, Assistant Vice Provost Jim Turman, Denny Olsen, Bob Crabb, and Laurie McLaughlin. MSA will also be meeting with President Kaler this month.

## **6. MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 6, 2011 Action**

**MOTION:**

To approve the Student Senate minutes, which are available on the Web at the following URL:

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/ssenate/111006stu.html>

**STUART GOLDSTEIN, CLERK  
UNIVERSITY SENATE**

**DISCUSSION:**

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

**APPROVED**

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**MOTION A  
Consent Agenda  
Action**

Agenda Items 7. through 9. are considered to be non-controversial or “housekeeping” in nature and are offered as a “Consent Agenda” to be taken up as a single item with one vote. Any item will be taken up separately at the request of a senator. As Items 7. and 8. are amendments to the Student Senate Bylaws, the motion requires either a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate (22) at one regular or special meeting, or a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate present and voting at each of two meetings. This is the first meeting at which this motion is being presented.

**7. STUDENT SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT  
Changes regarding P&A Senate and Civil Service Senate**

**ARTICLE V. STUDENT SENATE MEMBERSHIP, ELECTIONS, AND OFFICERS  
(Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)**

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**3. Election and Duties of Officers**

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**c. Duties of the Vice Chair**

The duties of the vice chair are (1) to serve as the vice chair of the Student Senate; (2) to serve as the liaison to the Civil Service ~~Senate Committee~~; (3) to serve as the liaison to the ~~Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators~~ P&A Senate; (4) to assume the duties of the chair in the event of an absence or incapacity of the chair; (5) to assume responsibilities delegated by the chair; (6) to ensure that the Student Senate Handbook is updated and distributed; and (7) to serve as the vice chair of the Student Consultative Committee.

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**ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES OF THE STUDENT SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)**

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## 2. Eligibility for Membership

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c. No individual holding an academic staff title or a civil service title may serve on a Student Senate committee which includes among its ex officio members the University officer to whom the individual directly reports. If the Faculty Committee on Committees, Student Committee on Committees, or Civil Service Consultative Committee believes there is a reasonable potential for a conflict of interest for a prospective committee member from a unit on which a University officer from the same unit serves as an ex officio member, it should decline to appoint such an individual to a committee.

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## 4. Removal of Committee Chairs and Committee members

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b. If the committee chair to be removed is a faculty member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the Faculty Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair to be removed is an academic staff member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the ~~Executive Committee of the Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators~~ P&A Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair or committee member is a civil service staff member, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the Civil Service Consultative Committee before voting on removal. If the committee chair or committee member is an alumni representative, the Student Consultative Committee will consult with the President and the Director of the Alumni Association before voting on removal.

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d. Student members of committees may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the Student Consultative Committee. Faculty, alumni, and ex officio members of a committee may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the Faculty Consultative Committee. If the committee member is an alumni representative, the Faculty Consultative Committee will consult with the President and the Director of the Alumni Association before voting on removal. If the committee member is an ex officio member, the Faculty Consultative Committee will consult with the appointing officer before voting on removal. Academic staff members may be removed from a committee by a two-thirds vote of the ~~Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators~~ P&A Consultative Committee. Civil Service members of a committee may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Civil Service Consultative Committee.

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### COMMENT:

These amendments reflect the changes that became effective on July 1, 2011.

**ADAM MATULA, CHAIR**  
**STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

## 8. STUDENT SENATE BYLAW AMENDMENT

## **Increase in Student Members**

### **B. STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Student Affairs Committee is concerned with all issues dealing with the welfare of students at the University of Minnesota.

#### **Membership**

The Student Affairs Committee shall be composed of 6 faculty/academic professional members, ~~9~~ 12 students, one civil service staff member, one alumni representative, and ex officio representation as specified by vote of the Senate. Student members shall exceed by at least one the total of other voting members. Faculty/academic professional and student members shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees with the approval of the Senate. Civil service members shall be appointed by the Civil Service Consultative Committee. The alumni member shall be appointed by the president in consultation with the director of alumni relations.

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#### **COMMENT:**

In Spring 2011 an Ad Hoc Committee Reviewing the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) met to discuss several issues related to the functioning of the SCSA and issued a report ([http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/scsa/1108scsa\\_report.pdf](http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/scsa/1108scsa_report.pdf)). One recommendation was to increase the number of student committee members from 9 to 12 to allow for a more diverse set of students to serve.

The Student Committee on Committees (SCOC) has reviewed the request and is forwarding this amendment. The increase in student members will be reviewed by SCOC in early Spring of 2013 to determine if the number should remain at 12 or should be reduced to 9. Their recommendation will be brought back to the SCSA and the Student Senate for information or action.

**SILVIA CANELON, CO-CHAIR  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**JOYCE HOLL, CO-CHAIR  
STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

### **9. STUDENT SENATE RULES AMENDMENT Changes regarding P&A Senate and Civil Service Senate**

**ARTICLE V. RULES OF THE STUDENT SENATE (Changes to this article are subject to vote only by the Student Senate)**

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#### **2. Agenda and Minutes**

The Student Consultative Committee shall plan the agenda for any meeting of the Student Senate. This responsibility may be delegated to a committee. The agenda shall be distributed by the Clerk of the Senate. The agenda consists of items submitted for Student Senate consideration by the University Senate, the Faculty Senate, a campus assembly, the Senate Consultative

Committee, the Faculty Consultative Committee, the Student Consultative Committee, the ~~Council of Academic Professionals and Administrators~~ P&A Consultative Committee, the Civil Service Consultative Committee, by any committee of the Student Senate or campus assemblies, or any member of the Student Senate. The Student Consultative Committee may include additional items on the agenda for any regular meeting of the Student Senate. Items for the docket must be delivered to the Clerk no later than two weeks prior to the date of each meeting.

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**COMMENT:**

These amendments reflect the changes that became effective on July 1, 2011.

**ADAM MATULA, CHAIR  
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**DISCUSSION:**

With no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was approved with 28 votes in favor and none opposed.

**APPROVED**

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**END OF MOTION A**

**10. DIFFERENTIAL TUITION AND FEES  
Discussion with Vice Provost Robert McMaster**

Vice Provost McMaster could not attend today's meeting so this discussion was not held.

**11. COMMUNICATION WITH STUDENT SENATORS  
Discussion**

Adam Matula, Student Senate and Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Chair, said that SSCC has discussed the lack of communication that currently takes place between the committee and the senators. As Student Senate meetings are infrequent, they questioned ways to resolve this issue without inundating senators with information. SSCC came up with three ideas – a biweekly email update using the MSA newsletter as the basic format, appointing a communications officer, or reworking the Student Senate website to provide more updates. He would like to hear from senators about these or any other suggestions.

All senators agreed that more communication was necessary. Most senators liked the idea of a biweekly email newsletter or communications officer. Revisions to the website might be good, but not everyone will take the time to go to this site. If a communication is sent to senators, it will be a constant reminder of their service to the Student Senate.

**12. RESOLUTION ON BICYCLIST AND PEDESTRIAN CONCERNS  
Action**

Resolution on Bicyclist and Pedestrian Concerns

Whereas, construction on and around campus has made getting to and from class more difficult for many students; and

Whereas, the University should encourage bicycling as a healthy and environmentally-friendly transportation option; and

Whereas, a lack of bicycle routes for students has resulted in some bicyclists riding through University-designated dismount zones creating safety hazards for riders and pedestrians; and

Whereas, current University police enforcement in dismount zones is insufficient to fully curb cycling violations in these zones;

Therefore be it resolved that the University of Minnesota Student Senate respectfully asks the University administration to take action to increase the viability of bicycling on campus whether by opening new bicycling routes, streamlining current routes, or by other means;

Be it further resolved that the administration be asked to increase enforcement of bicycle dismount zones to prevent accident or injury.

**ADAM MATULA, CHAIR  
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**DISCUSSION:**

Adam Matula, Student Senate and Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) Chair, said that this resolution was crafted after a discussion by SSCC regarding safety concerns on the Twin Cities campus. Coordinate campus members agreed that the resolution was not applicable on those campuses but they would support the request.

A senator said that she supports this resolution. As a student who walks on campus, many routes for cyclists have been closed due to light rail construction and have been shifted to other areas. Walkers are not used to cyclists in these areas and not watching where they are walking. This resolution is a step in the correct direction.

Another senator stated that he knows that there are issues for both groups. He is concerned that this resolution does not include any concrete suggestions or identification of the problem areas. The Student Senate should make an investment in a solution or create a task force and not expect the administration to investigate the issue. He also suggested that this resolution be tabled until bicycling starts again in spring semester.

Lizzy Shay, MSA President, reported that this topic is already ongoing with the administration and she feels that they would be receptive to this resolution. Now is also an appropriate time to figure out what to do before the spring riding season starts.

A senator supported this resolution but asked that more focus be placed on the cyclists. It appears that little thought was given to the bicycle routes on campus when construction started versus the attention that was paid to pedestrians. There are also many winter cyclists and safety concerns will increase during this period.

Another senator said that many of these points were discussed at the SSCC meeting, including the challenge of the winter biking season and not being able to clearly see where bike paths are located. These issues need to be resolved before there is an accident.

Q: Will increased police enforcement as requested by the resolution have an impact on efforts to curb other campus crime?

A: This was not a topic at SSCC but this resolution is meant to open a dialogue with the administration about what can be done and to work with them to fix these issues for cyclists and pedestrians. If increased enforcement would significantly decrease enforcement of other pressing crime issues, then the solution might need to be modified.

A senator said that this resolution asks for more access for cyclists and for increased enforcement. This is a mixed message. He is afraid that the administration will just focus on increased enforcement which will not solve the issue. He then made a motion to strike the last clause.

As this was not accepted as a friendly amendment, the motion was seconded and then opened for discussion.

A senator spoke in opposition to this amendment. The University knows that cyclist access is an issue but it is important to state that the Student Senate also supports enforcement efforts. She then stated that most campus crime is being handled by the Minneapolis Department, as it has occurred off-campus.

Another senator stated that increased enforcement does not need to be included since there is no shortage of it taking place now and likely will not stop. The Student Senate should focus on alternate bike paths.

A senator felt that the final clause is an important part of the resolution since that is the statement that addresses the concerns of pedestrians.

Another senator supported the resolution but asked that any future discussion on the topic not involve the coordinate campuses.

A vote was then taken on the amendment and the motion failed.

A vote was then taken and the motion as originally presented was approved.

**APPROVED**

### **13. OLD BUSINESS**

**NONE**

### **14. NEW BUSINESS**

**NONE**

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

**Rebecca Hippert  
Abstractor**