MEETING OF THE STUDENT SENATE

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2017

11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Coffman Theater--Twin Cities Campus
105 Kiehle Hall--Crookston Campus
173 Kirby Plaza--Duluth Campus
45 Humanities and Fine Arts--Morris Campus
Room 398—Rochester Campus

This is a meeting of the Student Senate. There are 60 voting members of the Student Senate. A simple majority must be present for a quorum. Most actions require only a simple majority for approval. Actions requiring special majorities for approval are noted under each of those items.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES TO SENATE ACTIONS

Information

Medical Amnesty Resolution
Approved by the Student Senate: April 6, 2017
Administrative Response: PENDING

2. 2017-18 STUDENT AND UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING DATES

Information

The Student Senate and University Senate meetings for 2017-18 will take place on the following dates, starting at 11:30 a.m.:

November 9, 2017
March 1, 2018
April 5, 2018
May 3, 2018

3. STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH LETTER

Information

April 5, 2017

TO: Brian Burnett, senior vice president of finance and operations, Office of the Senior Vice President for Finance and Operations
Karen Hanson, executive vice president and provost, Office of Academic Affairs and Provost
Brooks Jackson, vice president, Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences
Al Levine, interim vice president, Office of the Vice President for Research
Julie Tonneson, associate vice president, University Finance
Mike Berthelsen, interim vice president, University Services

FROM: Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA)
Brianne Keeney, chair
RE: Student mental health concerns

Over the course of the 2016-17 academic year, the Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) has prioritized analysis of student mental health resources, both for international and system campus students. During the committee’s year-long deep-dive on this issue, our committee consulted with several administrators to discuss the resources available for the students they serve, including Vice Chancellors Erwin, Olson-Loy, Carrell, and Phaiah; Gabriele Margarete Schmiegel, director of sponsored programs, International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS); and, Alisa Eland, associate director and head of counseling and advising, ISSS. While the committee was very impressed with the work that is happening across the system to address student mental health concerns, we believe that some areas require additional resourcing.

Additionally, the committee was contacted by a concerned student after an incident on the Washington Avenue Bridge on the Twin Cities campus, where a former student either fell or jumped from the bridge. The student urged the committee to recommend the installation of barriers on the bridge, in an effort to dissuade those seeking to do themselves harm. SCSA formed a task force in November 2016 to look into potential solutions to this issue, including the addition of barriers, and after consultation with Facilities Management (FM), the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), the University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD), Hennepin County staff, colleagues at other institutions, and University of Minnesota structural experts, the group made a set of recommendations to the committee.

Based on these conversations and reports, the SCSA is making the following recommendations:

**Provide additional funding for system campus student mental health resources.**

While additional financial resources have already been allocated to the Twin Cities campus, including funding for additional counseling staff, the resources allocated to system campuses have not been increased.

*University of Minnesota-Duluth*

Through our discussions with University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) administrators, we have learned that:

- One third of students at UMD have reported diagnosed mental health issues, and one fifth reported more than one diagnosed mental health issue;
- The UMD Counseling Center has a total of four FTE positions, with a ratio of one counselor for well over 2,000 students (the recommended ratio is one counselor for every 1,600 students);
- In the fall of 2016, UMD Counseling set a limit of 12 counseling appointments per student per year, after which they are referred to outside community resources, where wait times for long-term care can be very long;
- Due to budget issues at UMD, additional funding is needed in order to offer more group care, wellness initiatives, and resiliency training, as the campus cannot fund additional offerings through internal reallocations.

Therefore, the Senate Committee on Student Affairs recommends that the University support UMD’s budget compact request for funding to hire two additional FTE counselors.

*University of Minnesota-Morris*

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1. [http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/03/umn-students-call-for-more-mental-health-resources-system-wide](http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/03/umn-students-call-for-more-mental-health-resources-system-wide)
2. [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_A-1Zh-2cI3aGII1dkRtMWg1SU0](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_A-1Zh-2cI3aGII1dkRtMWg1SU0)
3. [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_A-1Zh-2cI3aGII1dkRtMWg1SU0](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_A-1Zh-2cI3aGII1dkRtMWg1SU0)
Through our discussions with University of Minnesota-Morris (UMM) administrators, we have learned that:

- Approximately one third of UMM students have been diagnosed with a mental illness, 15% within the past year;
- Approximately 12% of the UMM student population have requested counseling appointments this year;
- Demand for student mental health services and after-hours crisis lines has increased over the past few years;
- Wait times for counseling appointments can be between two and four weeks, and community resources can be difficult to access due to campus location.

Therefore, the Senate committee on Student Affairs recommends that the University provide additional funding to UMM in an effort to reduce wait times through expansion of appointment offerings.

*University of Minnesota-Crookston* 4

In our discussions with University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC) administrators, we have learned that:

- International and domestic students face many of the same stressors, including anxiety, depression, academic stressors, and homesickness, and international students also face difficulties with culture shock, isolation, discrimination, and language-related difficulties;
- UMC has access to several community resources for mental health referrals and consultation, with key partners including Northwestern Mental Health Center and Riverview Hospital;
- Mental health services available to students on campus include triage and brief strategic counseling, utilizing person-centered theory and cognitive behavior therapy approaches.

Therefore, the committee recommends regular assessment of UMC’s counseling wait times and the counselor-to-student ratio, in an effort to ensure students on the Crookston campus have accessible mental health resources and crisis help.

*University of Minnesota-Rochester* 5

Through our discussions with University of Minnesota-Rochester (UMR) administrators, we have learned that:

- Students studying health sciences can have high levels of anxiety and stress;
- Many students come to UMR to study after having major health concerns, either for themselves or their family members, including mental health concerns;
- UMR does not employ full-time counseling staff, but does contract for these services, and counselors are located in areas on campus very accessible to students.

Therefore, the committee recommends regular assessment of UMR’s counseling wait times and the counselor-to-student ratio, in an effort to ensure students on the Rochester campus have accessible mental health resources and crisis help.

**Prioritize reconstruction of the pedestrian level of the Washington Avenue Bridge, ensuring that suicide prevention is considered in the new design.**

In the Washington Avenue Bridge Task Force’s report to SCSA, the following information was provided:

4 [http://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/184812/16_11_09_SCSA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/184812/16_11_09_SCSA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

5 [http://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/184812/16_11_09_SCSA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/184812/16_11_09_SCSA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)
The Provost’s Joint Task Force on Student Mental Health, Facilities Management (FM), and the University of Minnesota Police Department (UMPD) are all looking into bridge safety issues. Currently, FM has prioritized prevention efforts, adding more cameras to the bridge and additional signage in an effort to alert UMPD in a more timely manner of any suspicious activity.

In looking at other institutions and how they have dealt with bridge safety, the task force found that Cornell had clusters of suicides from suspension bridges in the 1970s, 1990s, and the 2009-10 academic year. In response, they installed safety netting on the bridges, at a cost of $7 million for seven bridges. At the University of Texas-Austin, the institution installed barriers in their parking structures after an uptick in suicides, and increased their policing in affected areas. UT-Austin administration also worked with news outlets to mute coverage of suicide incidents, to discourage others who may be considering this action.

While Hennepin County is responsible for operating and maintaining the lower levels of the bridge, the University of Minnesota is responsible for the pedestrian deck. In order for the county to pursue adding fencing or netting to the bridge, they would first need to receive a formal request from the University with a commitment that the institution would pay for improvements and take responsibility for liability issues (with evidence that the addition would not jeopardize the bridge’s structural integrity or impede on inspection operations).

Research seems to show that suicide is impulsive, and that barriers help to prevent suicides. Enhancements that are isolated to one spot may result in increased suicides in other areas. Therefore, any effort to install barriers should be part of a comprehensive strategy addressing nearby structures, including bridges and parking structures (specifically the Oak Street Parking Ramp, where incidents have previously occurred).

The Washington Ave bridge is a symbol on the Twin Cities campus, and for some students it is associated with suicide. Because of the power of that symbol, changes to the bridge should be capitalized on as a canvas to increase the institution’s care and suicide intervention plans. Therefore, the Senate Committee on Student Affairs urges University administration to prioritize reconstruction of the pedestrian level of the Washington Avenue Bridge, taking into consideration suicide prevention options in the new design. Additionally, the committee recommends a comprehensive review of nearby structures, including parking structures, to prevent increased activity elsewhere.

We thank you for your consideration in these matters, and look forward to your response.

cc: Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office
    Barbara Irish, senate associate, University Senate Office
    Trish Palermo, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee

6 http://seattlefriends.org/files/seiden_study.pdf
http://www.hsp.harvard.edu/means-matter/bridges-and-suicide
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/190/3/266
http://www.bmj.com/content/341/bmj.c3054
TRISH PALERMO, CHAIR  
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

4. SYSTEM-WIDE RESOURCES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT LETTER
   Information

This letter will be sent to senators ahead of the May 4, 2017, meeting.

5. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES  
   (5 minutes)

6. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE  
   CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT  
   (10 minutes)

7. MINUTES FOR APRIL 6, 2017
   Action  
   (2 minutes)

MOTION:

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

http://usenate.umn.edu/ssenate/minutes/170406stu.pdf

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, CLERK  
UNIVERSITY SENATE

8. STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS AMENDMENTS
   Action  
   (5 minutes)

MOTION:

To amend Article V, Section 4d. of the University Senate Bylaws, as follows (language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is struck out).

As Item 8. is an amendment to the Student Senate Bylaws, the motion requires either a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate (31) at one regular or special meeting, or a majority of all 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.

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

…

4. Removal for Neglect of Meetings
a. A member of the Student Senate shall be said to have neglected a meeting if the member does not attend a meeting of the Student or University Senate, does not provide an alternate, or does not notify the Senate Office of the impending absence.

b. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit membership by neglecting two meetings of the Student or University Senate.

c. The Senate Office shall notify any member who will forfeit Student Senate membership by neglecting the next meeting of the University or Student Senate.

d. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit Student Senate membership if membership in the campus student association or assembly is forfeited by failure to satisfy attendance criteria specified in the constitution, bylaws, or rules of the campus student association or assembly. A member of the Student Senate shall forfeit Student Senate membership if they change colleges or campuses during the course of their senate term.

e. A member whose membership has been forfeited may appeal to the Student Consultative Committee for reinstatement.

…

COMMENT:

The SSCC is proposing to change the Student Senate Bylaws to allow for removal of students who change colleges or campuses during their senate term.

TRISH PALERMO, CHAIR
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

9. STIPEND REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR INFORMATION:

The Student Consultative Committee, less its stipend-receiving members, shall review the performance of duties of all stipend-receiving members and vote on the approval, reduction, or withholding of the portion of their stipends allocated for spring semester. A two-thirds affirmative vote by the Student Consultative Committee is required for modification of stipend disbursement.

The Student Consultative Committee recommendation shall be presented to the Student Senate for approval at or before the Student Senate's last regular meeting of spring semester. Stipend receiving persons have a right to answer questions about or speak regarding the Student Consultative Committee's findings at this meeting if they so chose. A two-thirds vote of the Student Senate is required to modify the Student Consultative Committee recommendation.

MOTION:

The Student Senate Stipend Review Committee has reviewed the performance of the following stipend-receiving students: Trish Palermo, SSCC/Student Senate Chair, Fanda Yang,
SSCC/Student Senate Vice Chair, and Madison Schwartz, ranking student senator. The recommendation from the committee is that:

- Trish Palermo receive $1,250.00 of the $1,250.00 spring semester portion of her stipend
- Fanda Yang receive $500.00 of the $500.00 spring semester portion of his stipend
- Madison Schwartz receive $500.00 of the $500.00 spring semester portion of her stipend

**COMMENT:**

The Student Senate Stipend Review Committee reviewed the performance of all three individuals and determined that the full stipend amounts should be awarded to all officers.

**TBD, MEMBER**

**STUDENT SENATE STIPEND REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**10. RESOLUTION ON THE ST. PAUL CAMPUS VISION**

Action by the Twin Cities Student Delegation

(20 minutes)

**Resolution on the St. Paul Campus Vision**

WHEREAS, the St. Paul campus is without access to resources such as the Disability Resource Center, Testing Center, and the Aurora Center, students are forced to travel to East Bank to receive complete services.

WHEREAS, the University of Minnesota is a land-grant university, funded under the Morrill Act to, “provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts,”

WHEREAS, the Twin Cities campus is the largest of the University of Minnesota system, with 46,800 students. The professors, infrastructure, and social-life pertaining to Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts is currently located on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

WHEREAS, Students play a critical role in fulfilling the land-grant mission. The Agriculture and food industries in Minnesota, and the United States as a whole, are struggling to find qualified employees. Every year, about 60,000 new jobs are available in agriculture and food businesses, but only 35,000 graduates are ready to fill those spots.

WHEREAS, Greek Life on the St. Paul Campus was established as early as 1917. These social and educational fraternities play a critical role in preparing young adults for leadership in Agriculture, Environmental Science, Food Business, and Policy, and have made recent investments in the houses. The same alumni making investments in St. Paul Greek Life are connected to the University of Minnesota’s Alumni network and make donations to the University.

WHEREAS, critical public-facing University Services, including the Bell Museum, CBS Greenhouse, Meat Lab, Dairy Pilot Plant, Dairy Research Center, Swine Research & Teaching Facility, Poultry Teaching & Research Facility, Equine Center, Raptor Center, Veterinary Hospital and many other facilities employ many students on the St. Paul Campus rely on student work and would be impractical to relocate.

WHEREAS, Research in the areas of Ecology, Evolution, Plant Biology, Entomology, Agriculture, Economics, Environmental Science, Nutrition, Food Science and Food Safety, Education, Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Apparel
Design, and Social Work is conducted on the St. Paul Campus and provides immense benefit to the University and the State of Minnesota. This research is reliant on student contributions, and student learning benefits from participation in the research.

WHEREAS, many students commute to the Twin Cities campus and require adequate facilities to study, eat, and socialize during the day on the St. Paul Campus. But the current St. Paul Student Center does not meet those needs.

WHEREAS, in a survey of students who visit the St. Paul Campus regularly, more than half were satisfied with the campus, but also expected some improvements.

WHEREAS, the St. Paul Campus currently services students through Bailey Hall and St. Paul Student Center, as well as providing space for student groups, PAWs, Boynton, the art gallery, and the Technology Help Center, and building the academic community.

WHEREAS, with help from student pressure, the Office of the President has indicated an intention to move forward with charging a group of campus leaders to decide a vision for the future of St. Paul campus. At the Minnesota Student Association Forum on October 11th 2016, President Kaler stated the group would be pulled together by the end of Spring 2017.

WHEREAS, All major renovation and construction on St. Paul campus is contingent on a cohesive vision for the future of the campus.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Twin Cities Student Delegation supports student life on the St. Paul Campus; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any committee charged with deciding about the future of the St. Paul campus should include undergraduate and graduate student representation from at least CFANS, CBS, CDes, and CCE, as well as professional student representation from the College of Veterinary Medicine and the Dental School, and consider the recommendations made by St Paul and Student Government leaders about committee make up; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Twin Cities Student Delegation supports an urgent timeline to move forward with deciding a vision for the future of the St. Paul campus including to renovate the St. Paul Student Center and bring it to meet modern needs which may include:

- Updated (and more) seating at food court and in other areas
- Seating/study areas outside of the dining area
- More food and drink options
- Longer hours
- Better lighting
- Safety and cosmetic building improvements
- More quiet spaces
- Extended hours, nights and weekends
- Brewery
- Creamery
- Disability Resource Center
- International student resources/center
- Commuter student lounge
- Aurora Center
- Boynton Health Services
- Student Counseling Services

Contributors: Shantal Pai, CFANS Student Senator
Christina Olson, Animal Science Representative-CFANS Student Board
Resolution on Equal Opportunity and Title IX Education

The Student Senate recommends that all University employees be required to take an online or in-person course, administered by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, on University equal opportunity and Title IX policies.

All employees who are currently working at the University, including full- time employees, part time employees, graduate and undergraduate student employees, and vendors working on campus who regularly supervise University employees, will be required to take the course within a specific and reasonable time frame after it is made available and widely publicized. Nonexempt employees, including students, will be authorized to take this course during work hours. New employees will have a set period of time after their start date to take the course. Shorter refresher modules, covering changes in policies and practices, will be offered and required every so many years, as changes warrant. EOAA or another appropriate University unit will monitor completion of the course, send reminder notices, and track the effectiveness of the course.

COMMENT:

The University of Minnesota is committed to providing an equitable work and learning environment that is free from discrimination and harassment. The Board of Regents’ Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action Policy prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.7

Title IX is a federal statute that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs. Sex discrimination includes sexual harassment and sexual violence. University policies prohibit sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence, including sexual assault, stalking, and relationship violence.8

7 Board of Regents Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action Policy
   http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Equity_Diversity_EO_AA.pdf
8 Board of Regents Sexual Harassment
   http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf
   Administrative Policy Sexual Assault, Stalking and Relationship Violence
   http://policy.umn.edu/operations/sexualassault
The University of Minnesota's Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) was established to ensure that all University community members uphold federal and state civil rights laws and regulations, as well as University policies. EOAA provides education to University employees based on these laws and policies. However, this education is not mandatory. Accordingly, and based on continued concerns about campus climate and University safety, and to ensure that all university members uphold, are aware of, and have access to the protections of federal and state civil rights laws, the University Senate recommends that all University employees be required to take an online or in-person course, administered by EOAA or another appropriate University office, that would include the following content:

- Identifying and responding to discrimination, retaliation and nepotism;
- Identifying and responding to sexual harassment;
- Sexual assault, stalking and relationship violence policy;
- Reporting obligations for all employees;
- EOAA’s role; and
- Resources for complainants and reporting.

The proposed required education is a synthesis of the most critical elements of University policies determined by EOAA. The offering would be approximately one hour in length. The in-person option will be offered subject to EOAA’s or another teaching unit’s capacity and scheduling availability.

Endorsed by the Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs, the Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee, and the P&A Consultative Committee.

MARK PEDELTY, CHAIR
SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

12. ELECTION OF 2017-18 STUDENT SENATE/STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR
   Election by 2017-18 Student Senators only
   (20 minutes)

13. ELECTION OF 2017-18 STUDENT SENATE/STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR
   Election by 2017-18 senators only
   (10 minutes)

14. ELECTION OF 2017-18 STUDENT SENATE/STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE RANKING STUDENT SENATOR
   Election by 2017-18 senators only
   (10 minutes)

15. ELECTION OF 2017-18 COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES MEMBERS
   Election by 2017-18 senators only
   [One system campus senator, one senator from any campus, three SSCC members]

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9 The proposed training will also include information about the system campus Title IX Coordinators and reporting structures.
16. ELECTION OF 2017-18 TWIN CITIES MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT SENATE NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE
   Election by 2017-18 Twin Cities senators only
   [One TC SSCC member, one TC undergraduate senator, one TC graduate or professional senator]
   (5 minutes)

17. ELECTION OF ONE TWIN CITIES MEMBER OF THE M DINING STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
   Election by 2017-18 TC senators only
   (5 minutes)

18. OLD BUSINESS

19. NEW BUSINESS

20. ADJOURNMENT