The first meeting of the Student Senate for 2016-17 was convened in 25 Mondale Hall on Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 11:32 a.m. System campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing the roll as present were 44 student members. Chair Trish Palermo presided.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES TO SENATE ACTIONS

Information

Resolution to Prohibit Trade-off Arrangements between the University of Minnesota and Non-University Entities
Approved by the Student Senate: April 7, 2016

Administrative Response: The University administration agrees with the general premise of the resolution that University employees should not benefit personally from agreements between University and non-University entities. The prevention of such occurrences is covered by several Board of Regents and administrative policies, including Individual Conflicts of Interest and Code of Conduct. The University administration does believe that there will be circumstances where community uses for University facilities are appropriate and therefore does not support a ban on rental agreements for facilities that are structured in a manner alternative to typical rental fees.

Resolution supporting a Reusable Bag Initiative with the University of Minnesota Bookstores
Approved by the Student Senate: April 7, 2016

Administrative Response: The University Bookstores began conversations with MSA and Student Senate reps in November 2015 regarding a sustainability initiative centered around discouraging the use of single-use plastic shopping bags. A pilot program ran April - June 2016 with the University Bookstore in Coffman Union donating 5 cents to support campus sustainability efforts each time a customer used their own bag or declined the use of a single-use shopping bag. Also, a reusable bag design contest was held encouraging students to submit designs with the winning design being used on bags offered for sale in the University Bookstores.

The Bookstores also met with Shane Stennes, University Sustainability Director and Trish Palermo, Student Senate Chair, to determine the best use of the pilot program donation. There will also be a continuation of discussions with MSA and Student Senate reps regarding the initiative in light of the Minneapolis ordinance regulating the use of plastic carry-out bags in retail establishments scheduled to take effect June 1, 2017.
Amendments to the Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code  
Approved by the Student Senate: May 5, 2016  
Administrative Response: June 10, 2016

Resolution Concerning Student Mental Health Planning  
Approved by the Student Senate: May 5, 2016  
Administrative Response:  
The University administration appreciates the attention devoted to the issue of student mental health by student governance organizations, including the Student Senate. There is agreement that a comprehensive system-wide approach to this issue is a desired outcome, though the response thus far has been focused on addressing the unique needs of each campus. On the Twin Cities campus, funding was included in the FY17 Operating Budget to fund additional service providers. In addition, a joint Provost/FCC Task Force has been charged with developing recommendations for not only the provision of mental health services for students, but more importantly, how the attention to mental health issues can be systematically addressed within the academic culture of the University. The Office of the President will continue to work with the chancellors of the system campuses to explore the potential of system-wide methods of addressing student needs and finding sustainable funding models. We encourage continued engagement in this issue by campus student governance organizations, the Student Representatives to the Board of Regents, and the Student Senate.

Resolution to Implement System-Wide Restroom and Locker Room Access  
Approved by the Student Senate: May 5, 2016  
Administrative Response:  
The University administration supports the resolution of the Student Senate. Issues around restroom and locker room access have been administered on an individual campus basis, but the administration will continue to work with all system campuses to implement practices that support the categories of individuals mentioned in the resolution. On the Twin Cities campus, there is an effort to make certain that the distribution of gender-neutral restrooms is broad and readily accessible to most members of the campus community. Facilities Management is working toward its target of 425-450 total gender-neutral restrooms. The remainder of the project involves getting signs in place and ensuring the University's space database is accurate for capture on the GIS enabled gender-neutral restroom layer on the interactive campus map. The two units with the most locker room space on the Twin Cities campus are Recreation and Wellness and Intercollegiate Athletics. In the Recreation and Wellness Center on the Minneapolis East Bank campus, there are 7 individual changing rooms available to all center users which include restrooms & showers. In addition, lockers are available for rent or daily use located adjacent to the changing rooms. There
and 1 changing room with a restroom and shower in the Student Recreational Sports Dome. The Department of Intercollegiate Athletics has pledged to provide locker room accommodations to any Gopher student-athlete, visiting student-athlete, or any other facility user needing special accommodations, such as the specific situations listed in the resolution.

2. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Ellie Sjoquist provided an overview of the work of the Crookston Student Association (CSA), which is currently setting priorities, including the creation of midterm alerts, and participation in the chancellor search.

Zane Bloom said that the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA) is currently working on the creation of midterm alerts and issues surrounding bereavement leave.

Katie Ledermann added that the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) is working on better outreach for their organization, sustainability issues, Native American issues, a “Get Out and Vote” party, and participating in their chancellor search.

Taylor Cronen, representative from the Rochester Student Association (RSA), noted that they are focusing on student mental health through yoga, meditation, and information sessions.

Jonathan Borowsky provided an overview of the work of the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), including drafting a resolution thanking the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) for rescuing a student support group, revisions to the parental leave policy, a resolution seeking better access to human resources employees for graduate students, re-working their funding structure for college groups, and drafting a resolution on reasonable access to counseling services.

Patrick English noted that the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) is working on round two of the “How Are You?” campaign, issues of bias and free speech, launching a successful relationships campaign, promoting the “Humans of UMN” page, and seeking to recharge the Provost’s Joint Task Force on Student Mental Health.

John Freude concluded by saying that the Professional Student Government (PSG) is working on tailgating sessions, creating a bicycle center for the West Bank campus, and creating a student mental health survey.

3. STUDENT SENATE/STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Chair Trish Palermo outlined the Student Senate priorities for the year, as voted on by Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) members: Aramark/UDS issues, student mental health, diversity and inclusion, sexual assault (in partnership with the Senate Consultative Committee), and off-campus housing for students.

Palermo outlined some internal priorities, including encouraging student senators to meet with their college dean or campus chancellor to give them feedback on the work of the Student Senate. Palermo reminded senators that a letter was sent from her to each dean and chancellor,
and said that the response to these letters was very positive; deans and chancellors were interested in working closely with senators.

Palermo told senators that she had been working to have senate meetings added to the University Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences policy, allowing student senator attendance at the Student Senate and University Senate meetings to be considered excused absences. Palermo will present this issue to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP) for approval.

4. MINUTES FOR MAY 5, 2016
Action

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

http://usenate.umn.edu/ssenate/minutes/160505stu.pdf

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, CLERK
UNIVERSITY SENATE

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

APPROVED

5. TASK FORCE SUMMARIES AND GOALS

Chandler Peterson, chair, Campus-Area Safety Task Force, noted that the task force is currently working with Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) on the Twin Cities campus to provide students with reduced-rate parking after 6 p.m. to address student safety concerns.

Tom Wyatt-Yerka, chair, Public Relations Task Force, said that the task force is currently focusing on outreach to the legislature and increasing the Student Senate’s social media presence through Facebook and Twitter.

Mina Kian, member, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force, noted that while the task force had not yet met, she was currently working on creating a diversity mission statement for the College of Science and Engineering through work with her college board.

Carl Thon, chair, Tuition Task Force, provided an overview of the work of the task force, including looking at tuition increases and how the admissions process affects diversity; also compiling data on what is being discussed nationally; and how the Student Senate may become involved in Support the U Day.

Jonathan Borowsky, co-chair, Student Mental Health Task Force, and Patrick English, co-chair, Student Mental Health Task Force, noted that the task force had not yet met, but would be beginning its work soon. The task force will have a system-wide focus, and seek to create a permanent place in shared governance in which to discuss student mental health issues.
6. RESOLUTION ON REVISIONS TO PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY
FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
Action

MOTION:

To approve the following resolution.

Resolution on Revisions to Parental Leave Policy for Graduate Students
In partnership with the Council of Graduate Students (COGS)

Whereas:
the Boynton College Student Health Survey estimates that 14% of Twin Cities graduate students have a dependent child, and 5% are expecting,

And Whereas:
existing policies regarding parental leave provide 6 weeks paid maternity leave for women giving birth, 2 weeks paid paternity leave, and 2 weeks paid leave for adoption for either parent, for graduate assistants who hold an assistant appointment totaling at least 50% at the time of birth or adoption, and who have held a 50% appointment for at least two semesters (9 months) before the time of birth or adoption,

And Whereas:
individuals not meeting these eligibility criteria are entitled two weeks of paid leave,

And Whereas:
fellowships are not considered employment for the purposes of determining parental leave eligibility, and so graduate students who are funded by a fellowship will become disqualified from parental leave benefits until at least 9 months after their fellowship has ended, and this may deter students from applying for fellowships if they plan to have children,

And Whereas:
the language of the current policy is gendered and specifies different benefits for male and female individuals,

And Whereas:
not all individuals who give birth identify as women or female,

And Whereas:
the current policy does not provide a female academic employee whose spouse gives birth with parental leave benefits,

And Whereas:
the current policy makes no provisions for graduate assistants giving birth during the summer term, such that graduate students who are employed during the academic year but not the summer may not be eligible for full leave benefits if they give birth outside the fall or spring semesters,

Therefore be it Resolved:
that the Student Senate requests that the administrative policy, Parental Leave for Academic Employees, be amended to correct these deficiencies,

And be it Further Resolved:
that the Student Senate Consultative Committee is empowered by the Student Senate to take actions necessary to see these requests resolved.

The Student Senate and the Council of Graduate Students are requesting that the following revisions be made to the Parental Leave for Academic Employees Policy (http://policy.umn.edu/hr/parentalleave; language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is struck out).

**POLICY STATEMENT**

The University provides for paid and unpaid parental leave for eligible academic employees related to the birth or adoption of children in accordance with Minnesota statutes and the provisions of this policy.

**Provisions and Terms**

**Scope**

This policy governs paid and unpaid parental leave for faculty, academic professional and administrative (P&A), graduate assistant, and select professionals-in-training employees. Excluded from coverage under this policy are: (1) union-represented faculty and staff employees whose rights are governed by collective bargaining agreements, (2) civil service employees, (3) professionals-in-training who hold appointments in 9550 to 9599 classifications, (4) student employees, and (5) “without salary” appointments. Trainees holding an appointment in a 956x or 958x classification who receive stipends may be prohibited from receiving parental leave benefits under the terms of their awards. These individuals are afforded parental leave if a provision is provided through the parameters of their funding sources.

**General Information**

**Eligibility**

Parental leave provided by this policy is available to eligible academic employees who have been employed by the University for at least nine months and who are either full-time employees or part-time employees who provide an average of 20 or more hours of service per week. Employment in faculty, P&A, civil service, and student/professional training positions will be counted toward the nine-month eligibility period.

Teaching appointments (instructors of record and teaching assistants) in summer session and CEE must be recognized in determining eligibility for parental leave. Summer session appointments will be counted at the percentage time for the dates shown on the employee's Notice of Appointment or, if pay is hourly, on the actual hours paid. Appointments in extension classes paid on a credit hour basis will be counted as 30 hours per term for each credit taught. Noncredit courses will be computed on the basis of ten contact hours in the classroom as being equal to one credit. If the appointment is on a clock hour basis, the actual hours paid will be used to determine eligibility. Short-term conferences, seminars, workshops, and independent study activities are not counted. **Graduate students supported by a fellowship associated with a 100% tuition waiver, or which pays 100% of the student’s tuition, shall have the term of their fellowships treated as employment for the purposes of determining eligibility for parental leave under this policy.**

**Paid and Unpaid Parental Leave Available**

1. Eligible faculty (94xx) and P&A employees (93xx, 96xx, and 97xx):
   - An female academic employee may, upon request, take up to six weeks leave with pay related to the birth of her to a child giving birth to a child. The employee need not prove actual disability during this six-week period. To the extent this leave exceeds six weeks for disability, it will be covered under the Administrative Policy: Paid Medical Leave and Disability Benefits for Faculty and Academic Professional and Administrative
Employees.
○ A male faculty or P&A employee may, upon request, take up to two weeks leave with pay and four weeks leave without pay related to the birth or adoption of a child.
○ A female faculty or P&A employee may, upon request, take up to two weeks leave with pay and four weeks leave without pay related to the adoption of a child.

2. Eligible graduate assistant (select 95xx) and post-doctoral associate (9546) employees:
○ A female graduate assistant or postdoctoral associate employee may, upon request, take up to six weeks leave with pay related to the birth of a child giving birth to a child and up to two weeks paid leave related to the adoption of a child.
○ A male graduate assistant or postdoctoral associate employee may, upon request, take up to two weeks leave with pay related to the birth or adoption of a child.

3. Departments may choose, at their option, to adopt a policy for professionals-in-training classifications (select 95xx) that do not have access to the parental leave as covered under this policy. This provision may provide for up to six weeks paid leave to female professionals-in-training related to the birth of a child giving birth to a child and up to two weeks paid leave related to birth or adoption of a child. Male professionals-in-training may be provided up to two weeks paid leave related to the birth or adoption of a child.

4. Parental leave provisions as provided under this policy are applicable to registered same-sex domestic partner relationships.

Timing of Leave
The parental leave may begin at a time requested by the employee, but no later than six weeks after the birth or adoption and no sooner than two weeks before the birth or adoption. If the birth or adoption occurs outside of the academic appointment term, employees that are otherwise eligible for parental leave in the academic term immediately following the birth or adoption are eligible to claim the residual amount of leave when the term starts, with respect to the total amount of leave as outlined above, and the leave period no later than six weeks after the birth or adoption. In the case where the child must remain in the hospital longer than the parent giving birth, the leave must begin no later than six weeks after the child leaves the hospital.

A request to use parental leave must be submitted to the responsible administrator/supervisor at least four weeks in advance, except in unusual circumstances.

Leave Requirements
The parental leave must fall within the regular term of appointment. It must be taken consecutively and without interruption. In all cases, paid leave must be taken in conjunction with and/or prior to unpaid leave.

Note: Parental leave during summer session and extension class teaching appointments will be without pay.

Employee Benefits
During the parental leave, coverage will continue to be available for the employee and any dependents under any group insurance policy, group subscriber contract, or health care plan in existence at time of leave. While on paid leave, the continued coverage will be provided on the same basis as available to the employee during the course of employment. While on unpaid leave, the continued coverage will be available at the employee’s expense.

VERONICA POSTAL, MEMBER
COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
DISCUSSION:

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

APPROVED

7. STATEMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE POLLINATOR PRACTICES ON UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CAMPUSES

MOTION:

To approve the following statement.

Statement on the Implementation of Sustainable Pollinator Practices on University of Minnesota Campuses

The University of Minnesota is dedicated to the study and understanding of promoting a healthy and natural environment through the reduction and elimination of pesticides. Bees and pollinators are integral to a wide diversity of essential foods, including fruits, nuts, and vegetables; and bees and other pollinators are threatened due to habitat loss, pesticide use, disease, and parasites. Recent research suggests a strong link between neonicotinoid and other systemic insecticides, and harm to plant pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects;

The University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA) has partnered with the UMD sustainability office to implement pollinator-friendly practices. Working through the grounds operator, UMD has successfully incorporated pollinator-friendly practices on their campus.

The Student Senate is therefore encouraging the Morris, Crookston, Rochester, and Twin Cities campuses to adopt best pollinator practices in the following ways:

1. Refrain from using a broad treatment of insecticides that contain neonicotinoid and implement a policy that uses spot treatment application methods that are pollinator friendly;

2. Undertake best efforts to include trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, and plants that are favorable to bees and other pollinators, with informed consideration of the inclusion of pollinator host plants, in the district planting plans;
3. Undertake best efforts to communicate to the sustainability offices the importance of creating and maintaining a pollinator habitat.¹

MIKE PURTELL, MEMBER
UMD STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TRISH PALERMO, CHAIR
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION:

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

APPROVED

8. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

10. REDUCED-RATE EVENING PARKING RATES FOR STUDENTS ON THE TWIN CITIES CAMPUS

Discussion

Reduced-Rate Evening Parking Rates for Students on the Twin Cities Campus

The Campus-Area Safety Student Senate Task Force is focused on creating a safer campus and creating more accessible transportation options for students. Some of the task force’s initiatives this year involve working toward extending Gopher Chauffeur hours and working with Parking and Transportation Services to institute free or reduced parking for students.

Multiple concerns have been brought to student governance representatives regarding student safety. In a coordinated effort with Parking and Transportation Services, the Campus-Area Safety Student Senate task force is seeking to institute a reduced rate parking program for students after 6pm in efforts to create a safer campus.

Senators are encouraged to reach out to their constituents and student boards ahead of time to ensure their safety concerns are represented in this discussion.

The focus of this discussion is to provide the task force with answers to the following questions:

  • How would reduced-cost parking benefit you?

¹ https://strategic-planning.umn.edu/plan
• What options for parking for students after hours would help you to feel more safe on campus?
• What sort of program would be most convenient for you and your constituents to use?
• What is the best way to communicate options for parking (or a new parking program) to students?

If you would like to give feedback, but are unable to attend the meeting, fill out this form: z.umn.edu/ReducedParking

CHANDLER PETERSON, CO-CHAIR
CAMPUS-AREA SAFETY STUDENT TASK FORCE

CHANTAL PAI, CO-CHAIR
CAMPUS-AREA SAFETY STUDENT TASK FORCE

DISCUSSION:

Ross Allanson, director, Parking and Transportation Services (PTS), asked student senators to provide feedback to him regarding the above questions. Allanson noted that student safety is very important to PTS, and provided senators with a handout detailing programs already in place that are available to students with concerns about walking around the Twin Cities campus at night. Allanson also noted that due to event parking on campus, reduced-rate parking at night does have some operational complications.

Maddie Schwartz, at-large representative, SSCC, noted that nursing students are very much in favor of reduced-fee parking in the evening so that they can stay in Moos Tower to study for longer periods. Additionally, she said, they could use this as an opportunity to use the Rec Center to exercise more.

Talia Gurstel, senator, College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), expressed concern that students in her college feel pressured to leave campus early due to fears of walking around campus at night. Reduced-fee night parking would help students study on campus more easily, would help commuters, and would help students like herself that work overnight shifts on campus on the weekends.

Lauren Mitchell, senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA), said that graduate students typically come in very early to campus and leave very late; a reduced-rate parking program in the evening would not be as convenient for this population since they would potentially need to move their vehicles.

Jonathan Borowsky, member, SSCC, added that the current early morning discount available to students is not in line with the current rates after hours, since many graduate students stay on campus very late into the evening. Also, he said, safety is more of a concern in the evening for graduate students.

A student senator from CLA noted that since her college is so large, it is difficult to know what location would be preferable for students for an after-hours parking program. CLA has a number of night classes, and parking is currently very expensive to utilize. Additionally, the senator noted that for those involved in band, there are many required night events; those with valuables or instruments need to use their cars to commute to campus.

A student senator from the Medical School noted that professional students have highly variable hours, and many are on campus at night for classes or rotations. While the security monitor
program is available, the senator noted, it is not always convenient and the wait times can be long.

Rachel Olzer, senator, College of Biological Sciences (CBS), added that for students in the sciences who are involved in timed trials, experiments may need to be monitored at strange hours. Also, in CBS, students often split their time between the St. Paul campus and the East Bank campus.

Kamal Ali, senator, Law School, expressed concern that many law students park in Riverside to get the $4 rate, but that walking from the Law School building to Riverside at night is not safe.

Claire Breitenstein, senator, College of Science and Engineering (CSE), noted that sometimes students in her program are there until 1-2 a.m. Walking across campus at this time is not safe, she said, and students are targets for those looking to steal laptops, cell phones, etc. Biomedical students may also have calls in the middle of the night relating to animal facilities, requiring them to come to campus.

Allanson thanked senators for their feedback, and said that he would work with task force members to identify lots close to destinations frequently accessed by students after-hours; together they will look to identify a program that may alleviate student safety concerns.

11. STATEMENT ON THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

ACTION

MOTION:

To approve the following statement.

Statement on the Creation of University of Minnesota Undergraduate Research Journal

Whereas: The University of Minnesota Twin Cities does not currently possess an undergraduate research journal for any of the colleges;

Whereas: The University of Minnesota Duluth and Minnesota State Mankato currently possess undergraduate research journals;

Whereas: A majority of the Big Ten schools have undergraduate research journals, including the University of Michigan, University of Michigan State, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Northwestern University, Purdue University, University of Chicago, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Penn State University;


2 http://d.umn.edu/lib/d-commons/libpub/journals/DJUR/
3 http://www.umurj.org/
4 https://www.recur.msu.edu/
5 http://unl.libguides.com/undergradpub
6 http://www.thenurj.com/
7 http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/ipur/
8 http://jur.phy.uic.edu/
9 http://news.wisc.edu/uw-journal-of-undergraduate-research-publishes-first-issue/
10 http://justjournal.org/about/
11 http://www.bk.psu.edu/Academics/33708.htm
Whereas: Studies indicate that the displaying of undergraduate research in a public forum helps to promote a variety of skills crucial to students, especially in the area of professional communications; 

Whereas: The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is ranked 8th among public research universities and spends 870 million dollars on research annually; 

Whereas: Polling from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) office has indicated that students currently doing research have expressed a want for more places to display their research. A undergraduate research journal would accomplish this; 

Whereas: The director of UROP has expressed support in the establishment of an undergraduate research journal. The establishment of the journal will allow UROP students to display their research in the Fall through a campus outlet. Currently, UROP students are primarily able to present only in the Spring with the Undergraduate Research Symposium; 

Whereas: The establishment of an undergraduate research journal is in line with the core values of the Grand Challenges established by Provost Karen Hanson and supported by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents in the Fall 2014. The plan focuses on interdisciplinary cooperation and the need to “leverage the breadth of our research and curricular strength;”

Therefore, Be it Decided That: The Twin Cities Student Delegation supports the Minnesota Student Association in their efforts to create a collaborative effort between the administration, faculty, and students in to create an undergraduate research journal(s). In keeping with the theme of a collaborative effort, the Twin Cities Student Delegation recommends that the administration and faculty work with MSA to make sure the diverse interest of the undergraduate student body is heard during the formation process.

Cosponsored by: Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

HENRY CARRAS, REPRESENTATIVE
MINNESOTA STUDENT ASSOCIATION

TRISH PALERMO, CHAIR
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

DISCUSSION:

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

APPROVED

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Barbara Irish
Abstractor

12 https://www.aacu.org/publications-research/periodicals/undergraduate-research-high-impact-student-experience
13 https://twin-cities.umn.edu/research
14 https://strategic-planning.umn.edu/plan