

2016-17 UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

MARCH 2, 2017

STUDENT SENATE MINUTES: No. 2

The second meeting on the Student Senate for 2016-17 was convened in Coffman Theater on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 11:02 a.m. System campuses were linked by ITV. Checking or signing roll call were 44 student members. Chair Trish Palermo presided.

**1. ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSES TO SENATE ACTIONS
Information**

Resolution on revisions to the parental leave policy for graduate students
Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016
Administrative Response: PENDING

Statement on the implementation of sustainable pollinator practices on University of Minnesota campuses
Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016
Administrative Response: PENDING

Statement on the creation of a University of Minnesota undergraduate research journal
Approved by the Student Senate: November 3, 2016
Administrative Response: PENDING

2. ASSEMBLY/ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Chair Palermo invited members of the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) to give updates on the work of their student government organizations.

John Freude reported that the Professional Student Government (PSG) was working to drum up interest in the All-Campus Elections Commission (ACEC) elections for new members, and working on grants and allocations for seminars and research.

Lauren Mitchell noted that the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) is working on two major actions: a sanctuary campus resolution, and a resolution on student mental health which seeks to solidify progress, implement a “Let’s Talk” program, increase the number of care managers on campus, increase screening for at-risk students, and increase support for immigrant students.

Patrick English said that the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) is working on food quality issues with Aramark, the University’s food vendor, and helping to establish a nutritious food pantry for students facing food insecurity.

Zane Bloom reported that the University of Minnesota Duluth Student Association (UMDSA) had a good turnout at Support the U Day, and is continuing their work on creating midterm alerts.

Taylor Cronen said that the Rochester Student Association (RSA) was working to improve the classroom environment in an effort to ease student mental health concerns.

Katie Ledermann noted that the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) had recently passed a sanctuary campus resolution, similar to the COGS resolution, and two others; one asking the Morris food contract vendor to use sustainable practices and one encouraging the University to offer more Native American cultural education opportunities.

Noelle Sjoquist reported that the Crookston Student Association (CSA) was participating in the search for a new chancellor, noting that four candidates had been identified for on-campus interviews.

3. STUDENT SENATE/ STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Palermo reported that Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) had expressed appreciation of the student feedback received at the November 2016 Student Senate meeting. She noted that Ross Allanson, director, Parking and Transportation Services (PTS), was in the process of creating a proposal based on this feedback, and would follow up with MSA, PSG, and COGS leadership on possible solutions.

In response to student concerns with the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus food vendor, Aramark, Vice President of Aramark Corporate Communications Karen Cutler and Palermo had a phone conversation. Cutler agreed to provide a statement from the company in response to students' business ethics concerns.

Palermo thanked senators who participated in drafting and signing a letter to legislators ranking potential Board of Regents candidates. She said that some legislators had reached out and were very thankful for student involvement in this process.

Palermo provided an update on the issue of off-campus housing concerns on the Twin Cities campus, noting that in a meeting with the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC), President Kaler had indicated that he was supportive of publication of the University Student Legal Services (USLS) "De-list," a list of landlords who had violated off-campus housing policy, and publication of student reviews of landlords. Currently, Off-Campus Housing has a Request for Proposals (RFP) out to vendors to outsource the off-campus listing service.

In an effort to support transgender students at the University, Palermo said that she would be meeting with administrators from Boynton Health Service. The SSCC may draft a resolution to encourage the University to require Boynton Health Service employees to participate in implicit bias training in response to incidents reported to student leaders, said Palermo.

Regarding the Administrative Policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences, Palermo reported that the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP), the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), and the President's Policy Committee (PPC) had all approved the addition of Student and University Senate meetings to the policy. The policy is now under 30-day review and will hopefully be in place for the April Senate meetings, she said. The only campus not covered by this administrative policy is Duluth, and Palermo noted that she has a phone meeting scheduled with Vice Chancellor Delgado to discuss adding these meetings to their policy.

4. MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 3, 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/161103stu.pdf>

**ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, CLERK
UNIVERSITY SENATE**

DISCUSSION

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

APPROVED

5. RESOLUTION ON ARAMARK EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, LLC Action

MOTION:

To approve the following resolution.

RESOLUTION ON ARAMARK EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, LLC

The University of Minnesota Student Senate requests the University of Minnesota administration notify ARAMARK Educational Services, LLC (“ARAMARK”), pursuant of section 8.03 of the Service Management and Operation Agreement by and between the Regents of the University of Minnesota and ARAMARK Educational Services, LLC (“Agreement”)¹ of student concerns regarding the lack of options for those with religious restrictions, poor food quality, high cost, lack of options for those with dietary restrictions, and reports of ARAMARK’s questionable business ethics.

Resolved, that if ARAMARK does not rectify these concerns, we request penalties be implemented in pursuance section 8.05 of the Agreement. These penalties shall include the submission and execution of a detailed action plan in pursuance of section 8.03 of the Agreement, and the withholding of the fifty thousand dollar performance incentive by the University of Minnesota administration.³ Furthermore, in the instance that ARAMARK fails to adequately respond to student concerns by January 1st, 2018, the Student Senate requests that University of Minnesota administration not renew the Agreement and actively pursue other options for food service management and operations in anticipation of the Agreement’s expiration in accordance with Section 2.01 of the Agreement.²

Resolved, the Student Senate requests the Director of University Dining Services present findings of the Annual Business Review Committee to the Student Senate Twin Cities Delegation once every academic year.

Furthermore, the Vice President of University Services, after a request from the Student Senate Consultative Committee, has agreed to the implementation of a Student Advisory Council to investigate student complaints, communicate with ARAMARK, and to identify trends and serious issues with University Dining Services, managed by ARAMARK.

¹ [University-Aramark Contract](#)

² section 8 subsection 2 of the contract

Furthermore, the Vice President of University Services, after a request from the Student Senate Consultative Committee, has agreed to ensure student representation on the Annual Business Review Committee that meets every August, and agreed to include representatives from student government in the decision-making process for future residential food providers.

Furthermore, the Vice President of University Services, after a request from the Student Senate Consultative Committee, has agreed to give customer satisfaction surveys in collaboration with the Minnesota Student Association (MSA), the Professional Student Government (PSG), and the Council of Graduate Students (COGS).

Furthermore, the Student Senate Consultative Committee, due to concerns with ARAMARK's business ethics, requests that ARAMARK respond to the reports outlined below by January 1, 2018. Additionally, the Student Senate requests that University administration consider business ethics when evaluating contract vendors during the next RFP cycle, in collaboration with the Student Advisory Council.

Authors:

Trish Palermo, chair, Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC)

Max Hurst, student senator, College of Liberal Arts (CLA)

Derek Frank, student, University of Minnesota

Alex Thibodo, researcher, Minnesota Student Association (MSA)

Passed by the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) on February 1, 2017

COMMENT:

During fall semester 2016, the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) began investigating student concerns with ARAMARK and University Dining Services. The SSCC found that the Senate Committee on Finance and Planning (SCFP) passed recommendations to the administration in 1999 regarding Aramark's food quality issues, which still seem to persist to this day. After several discussions, the SSCC identified the following student concerns:

- Poor food quality
- Lack of options for those with dietary restrictions or those requiring religious accommodations
- High cost of meal plans
- Mistreatment of employees
- Lack of collaboration with student governing bodies and lack of student representation
- Significant discrepancies between Aramark's surveys and the feedback governing bodies receive
- Reports of labor law violations, including employment discrimination and unsanitary working conditions
- Reports on profiting off of mass incarceration

The SSCC invited the Director of University Dining Services, an ARAMARK employee, and the Interim Contract Administrator, a University of Minnesota employee, to meet with the committee on December 8, 2016, to discuss concerns with the student experience. After this meeting, several key needs were identified, including:

- Student representation on yearly Annual Business Review Committee
- The creation of an advisory panel, with student representation
- Better access to information from ARAMARK surveys relating to student satisfaction, and coordination with student groups on these surveys

- The gaps between Aramark’s satisfaction rating and the experiences of students in the dining halls

The Minnesota Student Association (MSA) and the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) will be considering their own resolutions on this issue at their February 2017 meetings. Additionally, the Association of Big Ten Students³ passed a similar resolution on February 5th, 2017⁴, and the Students United Board of Directors passed a resolution on February 12th, 2017⁵. The goal of this coordinated effort is for students to come together in taking a stance against Aramark and their profiting off of not only students but the most vulnerable communities.

ANNOTATED REFERENCES regarding ARAMARK CORPORATION RESOLUTION

Berger & Montague, P.C. 2001. Class action race discrimination lawsuit filed against Aramark Corporation. *PR Newswire*. August 15. <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/class-action-race-discrimination-lawsuit-filed-against-aramark-corporation-71733777.html>.

“A Class Action race discrimination lawsuit was filed today against the nation's largest provider of outsourcing services, ARAMARK Corporation, which posted revenues in excess of \$7 billion in 2000” in Philadelphia, PA.

Aramark settled in a \$165,000 lawsuit where it was argued they had disproportionately discriminated against black male job applicants.

Clarey, David. 2008. UDS: controversy behind closed doors. *Minnesota Daily*, September 9. <http://www.mndaily.com/article/2008/09/uds-controversy-behind-closed-doors>.

This is more than three times the amount of employee terminations in 1998, the first year Aramark Corp. partnered with UDS, according to University records.

Decker, Paul C. and Donald L. Miller. 2007. Cost-Value Analysis: Aramark Food Service Contract C1927. *Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, Bureau of Internal Audit*. January 10. https://www.privateci.org/private_pics/Aramarkfinal.pdf.

“Feed rates have declined sharply since the contract’s inception in 2001, creating a windfall for the vendor and reducing the value of the services provided without a proportionate decrease in per diem rates charged to the Department.”

³ Membership of the Association of Big Ten Students shall include any primary student government organizations of a Big Ten University included but not limited to the following Universities: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Indiana University, University of Iowa, University of Michigan, Michigan State University, University of Minnesota, Northwestern University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Ohio State University, The Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin, University of Maryland, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey <http://www.abts10.org/bylaws>

⁴ [ABTS Resolution](#) Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of Wisconsin, University of Maryland, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey <http://www.abts10.org/bylaws>

⁵ [Students United Resolution](#). Students United is an independent, non-profit organization funded and operated by students. Students United serves over 70,000 students attending Minnesota's seven state universities: Bemidji, Mankato, Metropolitan (St. Paul/Minneapolis), Moorhead, St. Cloud, Southwest (Marshall) and Winona. Students United has been a strong voice for state university students on the campus, system, state and federal levels for over 40 years. We are recognized by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees as the sole representative of state university students in Minnesota, and work on a variety of issues at several levels. <http://www.studentsunited.org/about/>

“During the first 24 months following the contract’s inception, the food service master menu was changed repeatedly, allowing the vendor to substitute less costly meat products such as ground turkey to previously required beef products. This cut the vendor’s production costs with no proportionate decrease in per diem rates charged to the Department.”

Aramark’s tumultuous history with contract violations, arbitrary charge inflations, and inflated rates of service.

Lavigne, Paula. 2015. KC stadiums’ food safety boss fired. *ESPN*. March 26. http://www.espn.com/espn/otl/story/_/id/12562241/food-safety-manager-fired-kansas-city-stadium-health-concerns-made-public.

In Kansas City, MO, an Aramark employee fired after reporting incidences of rodent infestations, unsanitary working conditions, health code violations.

Kaplan, Ivy and Theresa Maher. 2016. Firing of Aramark worker sparks social media uproar. *The Eagle*. September 5. <http://www.theeagleonline.com/article/2016/09/firing-of-aramark-worker-sparks-Social-media-uproar>.

At American University, long-time Aramark employee Ana Ebanks was fired for missing 40 minutes of work.

Mannix, Andy. 2017. After complaints over U food service, student senate taking steps to address issues, *Minnesota Daily*. January 19. <http://www.mndaily.com/article/2017/01/resolution-on-aramark>.

University of Minnesota Student Senate resolution to be voted on asking the University to deliver a set of food quality and business ethics concerns to Aramark.

Mattera, Philip. 2016. Aramark: corporate rap sheet. *Corporate Research Project*. August 19. <http://corp-research.org/aramark>.

This report enumerates 9 incidents of contracting controversy and 6 of labor controversy.

Palermo, Trish, Max Hurst, Derek Frank, and Alex Thibodo. 2017. DRAFT of Student Senate Resolution on Aramark Educational Services, LLC. *University of Minnesota Student Senate*. Accessed on January 23. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TmhrRuARfzURAx46yUIaXSvtpThpukUk4zSqtvf3h4U/e/dit?usp=sharing>.

Draft of resolution to be voted on in the March 2017 meeting of the University of Minnesota Student Senate.

Prochilo, Dan. 2013. Aramark pays \$2.75M to resolve FLSA class action. *Law 360*. May 8. New York. <https://www.law360.com/articles/439625/aramark-pays-2-75m-to-resolve-flsa-class-action>.

“Aramark Uniform Services Inc. has agreed to a \$2.75 million settlement of wage-and-hour class claims by workers who allege that the company had shaved time off employees’ shifts, according to a motion filed in California federal court Tuesday.”

Rubenstein, Abigail. 2010. Aramark to settle wage-and hour suit for \$3.9M. *Law 360*. April 6. New York. <https://www.law360.com/articles/160009/aramark-to-settle-wage-and-hour-suit-for-3-9m>.

“Food service company Aramark Corp. has agreed to fork out \$3.9 million to settle a wage-and-hour class action brought by its California employees.”

Ryan, Brenda. 2007. Cafeteria workers strike against poverty wages. *Worker's World*. December 20. http://www.workers.org/2007/us/cafeteria_workers-1127/.

This article describes a strike of Aramark-employed cafeteria workers.

Shaw, Charles. 2012. Exile nation: drugs, prison, politics, spirituality. p114-5. Berkeley, CA. *Soft Skull Press*.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=jqBJulFXzkcC&pg=PA116&lpg=PA116&dq=aramark+accepted+donations+USDA&source=bl&ots=V-ezH-GQ4z&sig=dP-G9E1XfE7gtAvTZFdygdktPr0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwinm4-99MrRAhXlzMKHdv7CtsQ6AEIPDAF#v=onepage&q=aramark%20accepted%20donations%20USDA&f=false>.

“Aramark has been accused of fraud and over-billing, driving up state budget deficits, poor service, and poor treatment of workers. Their worst transgression [...] appears to be serving tainted food to schools and universities.”

“In Illinois, Aramark paid more than \$3 million to settle a 2004 class action suit charging they defrauded approximately 50 school districts in the state by accepting national school lunch program food donations from the USDA without reducing the cost for the schools, which was in violation of federal law and the district’s food service contract.”

“The list of Aramark’s prison indiscretions spans correctional systems in Illinois, Texas, Oregon, Tennessee, New Jersey, New York, Missouri, and Florida.”

“In the same case that brought indictments against former IDOC [Illinois Department of Corrections] director Donald Snyder and John J. Robinson, a former lobbyist, Senior Vice President for Aramark, and Undersheriff of Cook County [...] pled guilty in July 2007 to federal charges of mail fraud relating to alleged kickbacks paid to Snyder.”

Spears, Valarie Honeycutt. 2009. Food caused Northpoint riot, guard says. *Lexington Herald Leader*. November 7. <http://www.kentucky.com/news/local/crime/article44014197.html>.

In the summer of 2009, prisoners at Northpoint prison staged a riot against unsustainable food allegedly containing “hairballs, rocks, cardboard, bread ties, maggots” and frequent food shortages. Prison officials claimed that their renewed contract with Aramark saved the state millions in infrastructure costs, allowing administrators to grant correctional officers with a 7% raise between 2009 and 2011. State officials and elected representatives claimed the prisoners’ allegations were misrepresented and fabricated after the riots, which injured 8 inmates and officers. A 2010 audit later found that Aramark cut down ingredients and watered down food and that food shortages were a common occurrence.

Sunny Suffolk Community College. 2016. Exciting new dining options at suffolk. *Suffolk Community College*. <https://www.sunysuffolk.edu/aramark/>

Aramark services more than 600 colleges and universities throughout North America.

Zager, Dan and Cassidy Jensen. 2015. Workers and Georgetown students stand up to Aramark. *Center for American Progress*. June 12. <https://talkpoverty.org/2015/06/12/aramark-georgetown-university/>.

At Georgetown University, a petition filed against Aramark corporation received well over 2,000 signatures from students, faculty, and dining staff after allegations of repeated wage theft, verbal abuse, and racial discrimination.

Zoukis, Christopher and Rod Bower. 2015. Aramark's correctional food services: meals, maggots, and misconduct. *Prison Legal News*. December 2. <https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/2015/dec/2/aramarks-correctional-food-services-meals-maggots-and-misconduct/>.

This article describes Aramark's misconduct at correctional institutions, including instances of sexual misconduct.

"Aramark was included among 132 businesses in 21 countries that were named the World's Most Ethical Companies in 2015 by Ethisphere Institute, a self-described 'global leader' in defining standards for ethical corporate practices."

Hundreds of Aramark employees have been disciplined, fired or prosecuted for smuggling contraband and engaging in sexual misconduct with prisoners.

DISCUSSION:

Palermo introduced Mike Berthelsen, interim vice president, University Services, who noted that many issues detailed in this resolution revolve around quality and choice, and he would like to work with students on how to quantify success in these areas. He said that University Services would address food quality concerns, and that Aramark, the Twin Cities food vendor, would address the business ethics components of the resolution.

Deb Parnigoni, associate vice president of marketing, Aramark Higher Education, presented senators with [an overview of student resident hall responses collected from the yearly "Dining Styles" survey](#), administered by third-party vendor Intelliscan. Parnigoni reported that student satisfaction ratings for those living in the residence halls was generally on par with satisfaction ratings for all dining locations, with an overall rating of 5.25 out of 7. In fall 2016, students rated residential dining halls higher than in 2015, when service performance was rated at 5.31 out of 7. Overall areas for improvement noted in the survey were hours of operation (rated 4.87), price/value (rated 4.46), and food variety (rated 4.66). Parnigoni noted that there were over 100 student respondents per residence hall. The Minnesota Student Association (MSA) provided their own survey results to Aramark, and Aramark and M Dining have created an action plan addressing student concerns, she said. Feedback from the survey included:

1. Address hours of operation, especially in Fresh Food Company at 17th Avenue;
2. Price, value, food quality, and variety are top of mind for University students;
3. Students value the humane treatment of animals, environmentally sustainable practices, fair trade options, and locally grown/sourced options.

In an effort to address these concerns, Kay Akey, interim director, M Dining, presented an action plan, which includes:

1. All senior managers and their teams will visit and eat meals daily at Residential Dining to observe quality and service, and provide feedback

2. Director of Operations will provide weekly updates to the Regional Vice President
3. All channels on campus are assisting in site visits (Retail, Catering, Athletics, etc.)
4. Centennial is receiving daily visits by the Assistant Director of Residential Dining and Chef James based on recent feedback
5. While Chef James will be based out of Centennial, he will continue visits and training sessions at all locations
6. Program standards will be revisited and associates trained in the execution of recipes and service standards

Parnigoni then briefly explained the Aramark sustainability platform.

Palermo opened the floor for questions and comments. Max Hurst noted that the Association of Big 10 Students passed a similar resolution at their winter retreat, and that these resolutions were part of a coordinated effort between student governments to broadly make a statement against Aramark's business ethics issues.

Cameron Gray said he felt the sample size of students surveyed in the residence halls was too small. Also, while managers eat in the residence halls, they may be biased in their feedback due to their employment status; customer data is more relevant, he noted. Parnigoni responded that there were over 100 respondents to the survey per residence hall, and that other opportunities for students to give feedback are offered throughout the year. Akey said that these events include "Dine with the Director," where students can dine with the director of M Dining to give direct feedback. Also, she added, while 18 managers eat in the residence halls for quality control, there are 70 total Aramark employees, and all evaluate the dining hall offerings.

Palermo asked M Dining and Aramark to speak to the discrepancy between the MSA and "Dining Styles" survey data, and asked if both the "Dining Styles" survey and the MSA survey were campus-wide. Berthelsen clarified that the MSA survey included all students, not just those who live in residence halls, which is slightly different than the data Aramark had been asked to provide today, which focuses on residence hall students. He noted that he is open to discuss what the best way is to get student feedback for satisfaction surveys, and that he would work with MSA and the Student Senate on this issue.

Chandler Peterson reported that she had asked for feedback from students online regarding dietary restrictions in the dining halls, and received the following responses:

- A student with Celiac disease requested a gluten-free plan, and was told that she needed to call residence dining locations each day before visiting to verify that they had food options for her. Her parents then tried to cancel the plan, but were not allowed to do so.
- A student purchased a meal plan, but was not able to eat in the residence halls because they found that often, there were no suitable options for them (non-specified dietary restriction). The student then needed to supplement the plan by purchasing additional food from grocery stores, adding expense. Students should be able to request a lower-cost option when they are not able to utilize the meal plan to the full extent.
- A student was referred to the M Dining dietician, and did not find it helpful. The student noted that they were simply added to a Google Doc noting which foods the student could eat in the dining halls, but there was no further help or guidance.

Berthelsen thanked Peterson for gathering this information, and acknowledged some limitations in the dining hall offerings. The Pioneer Hall renovation, he said, offers an excellent opportunity. Dietary restrictions are a real issue, and the need is evolving; M Dining will seek to provide choices, or to help students with an exit plan when required, he added. While M Dining seeks to offer many options at many locations, Berthelsen noted, it may be more effective to look into alternative models, such as offering different options at different locations.

Lana Peterson reported that issues were plentiful on the St. Paul campus, with long wait times, and a lack of healthy food options. While there has been talk of remodeling the St. Paul Student Center, students cannot wait for a renovation, she said.

Hurst said that students in his college provided feedback requesting expansion of allergen-free options, and a fish option on Fridays for Catholic students.

Shantal Pai asked why students living in residence halls were required to purchase meal plans. Laurie Scheich, associate vice president, Auxiliary Services, replied that this is a University decision, based on data that shows that students benefit developmentally from these plans during their first year of college, helping to create better integration into the campus community. This is also a facilities issue, she said; residence hall kitchenettes are not equipped to be used by all students for regular meal preparation. Scheich added that M Dining can work with students who have dietary restrictions on options and accommodations. Palermo said that in her experience as a Community Advisor, it was valuable for first year students to have meals plans, and that it would be nearly impossible for students to cook their own meals in the residence halls due to lack of facilities.

Carl Thon asked why the “Dining Styles” survey was only sent out in the fall, when students have not had much of a chance to experience the dining hall food. He suggested it may be more valuable to get spring data. Parnigoni responded that Aramark used to send out surveys in both the fall and the spring, but there were some concerns raised that students were being “over-surveyed,” and the results of the fall and spring surveys was not significantly different. If it is valuable, she added, Aramark is happy to work with M Dining to send out a survey in the fall and spring of each year.

A non-senator outlined issues she faced eating in the dining halls while practicing kashrut, a set of Jewish religious dietary laws. She said that many times, the food she was able to find lacked nutrition; she noted that often all she could find to eat was steamed zucchini and milk.

Tipheret Peña said that in her experience working in the residence halls as a Community Advisor for three years, she had difficulty finding vegetarian options; she reported that food was often mislabeled as vegetarian when it included meat. Additionally, it was hard for her to find vegetarian protein options. Peña said that she had filled out many satisfaction surveys, but had not seen any significant change.

Deneen Hanzlik told a story about a vegan student that she oversaw as a Community Advisor in the residence halls. The student had previously recovered from an eating disorder. This student found very few vegan options in the dining halls, and as a result, ate very little, triggering a relapse of anorexia. Hanzlik reported that the student then dropped her classes and withdrew from school, while the situation was also very traumatic for the student’s friends and advisors. Hanzlik said that while there has been slow progress, the progress needs to be faster.

A student who resides in Middlebrook Hall expressed concern over the high cost of the meal plan, and said that more flexible options should be available to students. Palermo asked Scheich what types of flexible options are possible for the meal plans, including roll-over funds or opting out. Scheich responded that the cost of the meal plan assumes some level of non-meal participation already, but that she was open into looking at more flexible options.

Benjamin Koisti asked why this resolution included both business ethics concerns (relevant to the system-wide Student Senate) and food quality concerns (relevant only to the Twin Cities campus). Palermo responded that after consulting with other governance committees, including the Senate Committee on Finance and Planning (SCFP), the Senate Committee on Student

Affairs (SCSA), the Social Concerns Committee, and the Senate Consultative Committee (SCC), the resolution was drafted to include both issues. Palermo noted that while the food quality concerns are more relevant to the Twin Cities campus, the business ethics concerns are of system-wide concern, since Aramark is one of the University's biggest contracts. Koisti asked if it might be better to split the resolution into two separate resolutions. Palermo replied that she would entertain this as a friendly amendment, but that the resolution as written is on the University Senate docket for today, so making this change may not be advisable. Additionally, the Association of Big 10 Students and Students United have passed similar measures, she added.

A senator asked if a rating of 5 out of 7 was actually a positive rating (71%) when it comes to food quality and options. Hurst asked why a 7-point scale was used, as it seemed like an unusual scale from a statistical standpoint. Parnigoni responded that Intelliscan sets this scale, which is used nationally at many Universities, and noted that the national average rating is 5.45 out of 7 (5.34 in the western region).

After discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was approved.

APPROVED

6. CHANGE TO STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHARGE Action

MOTION:

To amend Article VI, Section 5D, of the Student Senate Bylaws, as follows (language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is struck out). As this motion is an amendment to the Student Senate Bylaws, the motion requires either a majority of all voting members of the Student Senate (26) 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.

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

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5. Student Senate Committee Charges

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D. STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

...

Membership

The Student Consultative Committee shall be composed of:

- one representative of COGS
- one representative of CSA
- one representative of MSA
- one representative of MCSA

- one representative of PSG
- one representative of RSA
- one representative of UMDSA
- the chair, vice chair, and at-large representative of the Student Senate.

A student governance representative members shall be ~~the sitting vice presidents (or the otherwise second highest ranking executive officers)~~ a member of the respective student governance organizations, ~~or who is~~ elected or appointed in accordance with procedures determined by the respective campuses' student governance organizations.

...

**TRISH PALERMO, CHAIR
STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

DISCUSSION:

With no discussion, a vote was taken and the motion was approved with 32 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions.

APPROVED

**7. RESOLUTION TO DECLARE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA A SANCTUARY
CAMPUS
Action**

MOTION:

To approve the following resolution.

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
A SANCTUARY CAMPUS**

WHEREAS There is a strong likelihood of significant changes to federal policy on immigration in early 2017, specifically around proposals to “[remove] the more than 2 million criminal illegal immigrants from the country,”⁶ as well as fledgling efforts to revoke DACA status and instate a temporary ban on people from countries including Somalia from entering the United States⁷. These policies directly threaten the immigration status and safety of many students at the University of Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS Such changes, if enforced as proposed, would threaten longstanding commitments at our university and in our community to distinguish between local law enforcement and immigration enforcement, and;

⁶ Donald J. Trump. ‘Contract With America.’ 2016.
https://assets.donaldjtrump.com/_landings/contract/O-TRU-102316-Contractv02.pdf

⁷ Trump to Order Mexican Border Wall and Curtail Immigration:
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/24/us/politics/wall-border-trump.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&_r=0

WHEREAS Such enforcement measures would threaten the safety and inclusion of millions of Americans by requiring and enabling local institutions to disproportionately target immigrants and people of color, effectively compromising the access, safety, and belonging of many of our colleagues at the University of Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS Sanctuary cities and campuses are mutual agreements between public officials, law enforcement, and the communities they serve to refuse to deploy members of local law enforcement as immigration officials. Such agreements are intended to make distinctions between the legal and financial responsibilities of federal immigration agencies, on the one hand, and the responsibility of local law enforcement to equally “protect and serve,” on the other, and;

WHEREAS Both the City of Minneapolis and the City of St. Paul - the communities that UMN Twin Cities calls home - have committed to maintaining this distinction by declaring themselves sanctuary cities despite the president-elect’s threats to punitively deny such cities’ federal funding. Twin Cities mayors Betsy Hodges and Chris Coleman have argued that “all residents are equally entitled to protection and that all residents should be able to access City services to which they are entitled, without regard to their immigration status under federal law.”⁸ Additionally, the Minneapolis Board of Education has publicly affirmed these principles,⁹ and;

WHEREAS In response to these declarations of public support for the Twin Cities’ immigrant community, well over 1,200 members of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, have signed a petition calling upon President Eric Kaler to declare UMN a so-called ‘sanctuary campus’ by “utilizing our autonomy as an educational institution to resist current and planned federal and state actions that jeopardize the access, safety, or belonging of our peers,” and;

WHEREAS Nearly two dozen colleges and universities nation-wide have adopted similar ‘sanctuary’ policies¹⁰, affirming a commitment to their communities, by declaring that the role of an academic institution is to educate, enrich, and serve its community, not to disproportionately surveil and punish some its members, and;

WHEREAS Any efforts to surveil or harass university students beyond current practices would likely constitute a violation of their Fourth Amendment protections for privacy and protections against unreasonable searches and seizures¹¹, and;

WHEREAS The University of Minnesota’s mission statement includes the core value of “making the knowledge and resources created and preserved at the University accessible to the

⁸ Betsy Hodges: MPLS will remain a sanctuary city:

<http://www.citypages.com/news/betsy-hodges-minneapolis-will-remain-a-sanctuary-city-despite-trump-threats/401121615>

Chris Coleman: What a ‘sanctuary city’ means, and doesn’t mean, in St. Paul:

<http://www.twincities.com/2016/11/20/chris-coleman-what-sanctuary-city-means-and-doesnt-mean-in-st-paul/>

⁹ Minneapolis Board of Education Statement on Practices Related to Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

<https://v3.boardbook.org/Public/PublicItemDownload.aspx?ik=39770800>

¹⁰ 5 Inside Higher Education. ‘Can a Campus Be a Sanctuary?’

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2016/11/15/growing-movement-calls-universities-limit-their-cooperation-federal-immigration>

¹¹ Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution information:

https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/fourth_amendment

citizens of the state, the nation, and the world,” as well as providing “an atmosphere of mutual respect, free from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice and intolerance,”¹² and;

WHEREAS This commitment reflects the University’s ethical and moral obligation to do everything in its power to protect members of its community from infringement as they seek to fulfill their right to public higher education and community services such as the university’s outreach programs, libraries, athletics, and hospitals, and;

WHEREAS UMN President Eric Kaler has publicly affirmed that the University is “firmly committed to the safety of all of our students, including immigrants and undocumented students, and we will advocate for them to be able to attend the University and continue their studies uninterrupted,” therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate stands behind President Kaler’s affirmation of the right of immigrant and undocumented students to accessible education;

BE IT RESOLVED, that this organization calls upon President Kaler and the Board of Regents to unequivocally declare the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities a “sanctuary campus,” in accordance with its public mission and its commitment to the Twin Cities community and all its residents;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate officially holds the position that the University of Minnesota should at minimum publicly and unequivocally commit to:

- 1) Unequivocally reaffirming our commitment to nondiscrimination based on national origin;
- 2) Reaffirming and upholding the Fourth Amendment rights of students at the University of Minnesota and members of its surrounding community;
- 3) In keeping with these rights, declining any requests for information regarding the immigration status or religious affiliation of UMN students, faculty, and staff, unless under warrant or court order;
- 4) Publicly reaffirming the University of Minnesota Police Department’s policy of not basing actions on immigration status;
- 5) Preventing the University of Minnesota from collaborating with Immigration and Customs, unless a UMN student, faculty, or staff member has deemed such collaboration to be in their best interest;
- 6) Extending legal counsel to students, faculty, and staff who are under threat of detention and/or deportation;
- 7) Protecting access to aid and loans by undocumented students, faculty, and staff;
- 8) Protecting against the loss of health insurance for undocumented students, faculty, and staff;
- 9) Protecting the students on campus under the Minnesota DREAM Act;
- 10) Committing to finding work opportunities for students if the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy were to be revoked;
- 11) Institutionally resisting changes in federal law that attempt to link academic and research funding to adherence to prejudicial policies.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Minnesota DREAM Act, and Federal legislation which protects the right of individuals in this country to attend institutions of higher learning despite documentation status;

¹² University of Minnesota Mission Statement:
http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Mission_Statement.pdf

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate calls on and empowers its members to advocate for these policies.

Passed by COGS February 2017

Passed by Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA) February 2017

**ELENA GAMBINO, REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS (COGS)**

**TRACEY BLASENHEIM, CO-CHAIR,
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

**MITCHELL HANCOCK, REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS (COGS)**

DISCUSSION:

Elena Gambino, representative, Council of Graduate Students (COGS), presented the resolution, noting it had recently been passed through COGS and the Morris Campus Student Association (MCSA). This resolution calls for University administration to issue a statement declaring support for students protected under the Dream Act and DACA, and a declaration of the University's public commitment to immigrant students, establishing itself as a "sanctuary campus." While "sanctuary" is not a legal designation, Gambino said, it is a symbolic one; while the University already has many policies in place that in essence align the University with the values of a sanctuary campus, the University should be more public about its support for immigrants and undocumented students. Gambino noted that since this is a hot button political issue, COGS examined what legal mechanisms could be used to withhold federal funding from the University if it was declared a "sanctuary campus;" they found that there is not likely a legal basis to withhold federal funding. HR483 threatens to withhold state funding for those institutions that have designated themselves as "sanctuary campuses," but this bill is focused on policies protecting undocumented students, not merely on the "sanctuary campus" designation.

Tracey Blasenheim added that some policy changes are needed to protect students and prepare the University for enhanced policy changes. For example, ICE does not currently raid college campuses according to their internal policy, but this could change at any moment. Additionally, there has not been an increase in legal resources for undocumented students, including assistance with grants, tuition concerns, and healthcare assistance. While it's not possible for University administration to promise that all students will be safe, Blasenheim said, the institution can make a promise to do all it can to uphold this pledge. Additionally, greater publicity of these policies sends a message to affected students.

Katie Ledermann said that MCSA unanimously passed a similar resolution, and needed support from the other campuses through the Student Senate to move the issue forward.

Sammy Holquist asked why the language of the resolution had not been changed from the original COGS resolution to make it system-wide. Gambino replied that COGS hoped that as many campuses as possible would pass similar resolutions through their government organizations, and noted that she and Blasenheim would entertain a friendly amendment to the resolution to make it system-wide.

John Freude said that he was generally supportive of all of the requests in the resolution, as some were requesting changes in policy, and some were requesting promises from the administration. Some requests, he noted, are already protected under FERPA. Blasenheim replied that these

requests were symbolic in nature and concrete, and asked administration to more publicly convey their support for undocumented students. He noted that the resolution was authored with the flexibility for multiple groups in mind, at the sacrifice of specificity.

Freude asked who would be involved in policy negotiations, and asked how requests from ICE would be handled. Specifically, he said, what if ICE came to campus and requested information about an undocumented student accused of trafficking? In this example, he said, if University administration followed the pledge outlined in this resolution, they would not be able to provide ICE with information, even though it would benefit the University community. Gambino replied that the resolution was authored in a way as to not box the University in with specific examples; while the resolution does reflect the most likely examples of what may happen to undocumented students, the language is intentionally flexible.

Shantal Pai made four motions, which were all seconded, to change the following language in the resolution to make it applicable to all campuses (language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is ~~struck-out~~):

WHEREAS In response to these declarations of public support for the ~~Twin-Cities'~~ Minnesota immigrant community, well over 1,200 members of the University of Minnesota, ~~Twin-Cities~~, have signed a petition calling upon President Eric Kaler to declare UMN a so-called 'sanctuary campus' by "utilizing our autonomy as an educational institution to resist current and planned federal and state actions that jeopardize the access, safety, or belonging of our peers," and;

...

BE IT RESOLVED, that this organization calls upon President Kaler and the Board of Regents to unequivocally declare the University of Minnesota, ~~Twin-Cities~~ a "sanctuary campus," in accordance with its public mission and its commitment to the ~~Twin-Cities~~ Minnesota community and all its residents;

These changes were unanimously approved.

Max Hurst made a motion, which was seconded, to make the following changes to the resolution (language to be added is underlined; language to be deleted is ~~struck-out~~):

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Minnesota DREAM Act, Bridge Act, and Federal legislation which protects the right of individuals in this country to attend institutions of higher learning despite documentation status;...

This change was not approved with only 10 votes in favor, 12 opposed, and two abstentions.

With no further discussion, the motion as amended was approved.

8. OLD BUSINESS

NONE

9. NEW BUSINESS

Fanda Yang reminded Twin Cities senators that the All-Campus Elections Commission was holding elections and he encouraged senators to vote.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

**Barbara Irish
Abstractor**