



# UNIVERSITY SENATE SEMESTER UPDATE

## Faculty Senate Addresses Human Subjects Research



*Vice President Brian Herman and panel*

At its December 5, 2013 meeting, the Faculty Senate passed a resolution calling for an external review to examine the current policies, practices and oversight of clinical research on human subjects at the University, in particular clinical research involving adult participants with diminished functional abilities. On March 6, 2015, two of the external review panel members, Megan Kasimatis Singleton, associate director, Human Research Protections at the University of Pennsylvania IRB, and David Strauss, associate professor of psychiatry and vice chair for research administration, ethics, and policy at the Columbia University Department of Psychiatry, presented their conclusions to the Faculty Senate via video conference. Faculty and others lined the aisles

of Coffman Union Theater to ask questions and to comment on their findings. Minutes of that meeting can be found at: <http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/senate/minutes/150306facsen.pdf>

The conversation about human subjects research continued at the regularly scheduled April 30 Faculty Senate meeting. Brian Herman, vice president for research and Brooks Jackson, dean of the Medical School and vice president for health sciences, provided an implementation update, which was followed by testimonials from faculty and others, including one from a mother who believes her son's life has been saved because of the clinical research conducted at the University.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Professor Rebecca Ropers-Huilman, chair, Faculty and Senate Consultative Committees, presented a resolution on behalf of the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), calling for the creation of an independent faculty liaison position for human subjects research. This position would interact with the University Institutional Review Board, committees, and administrators regulating or overseeing the enrollment and treatment of human subjects in medical research. After a robust discussion, a motion was made to table the resolution until more was known about the recommendations of the implementation team. However, due to a lack of quorum, the motion to table failed. The team's first report is scheduled to be released on May 15, 2015. The draft minutes for this meeting will be available by May 29th on the University Senate homepage: [www1.umn.edu/usenate](http://www1.umn.edu/usenate)

To learn more about the implementation progress, go to: <http://research.umn.edu/advancehsr/#.VUkUF2ZyEos>

## April 2, 2015 University & Faculty Senate Meetings

Rebecca Ropers-Huilman reported on the FCC, including discussions on the Student Code of Conduct, a revised Graduate Student Bill of Rights, and an update on the University's biennium and capital requests.

In his State of the University address, President Kaler answered questions ranging in topics, such as the distribution of state funds within the University system, the relationship of AHC to the rest of the University, improving mental health services on campus, and addressing aging facilities at the system campuses.

Minutes of that meeting can be found at:  
<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/usenate/minutes/150402sen.pdf>

## A View from Inside



*Cutting into the Onion:  
Faculty Consultation and  
Governance*

*Joseph A. Konstan*

The shared governance system at the University of Minnesota is held up as a model and often studied and envied by our peers. The University

and Faculty Senates, and their many committees, have regular access to the University's senior leadership. FCC, in particular, meets regularly with the president and provost to discuss priorities and pressing issues facing the University and its faculty. Key matters of academic programs, curriculum, academic freedom, and tenure all flow through committees led and staffed by faculty--and faculty leadership is elected by the faculty--within the colleges and campuses for the Senate and across them for the consultative committee. When functioning at its best, the governance system serves as a way for senior leadership to present challenges, both gather and vet ideas, and tap into the expertise of faculty. To read the full commentary, go to: [http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/usenate/docs/spring2015\\_semester\\_update\\_article.pdf](http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/usenate/docs/spring2015_semester_update_article.pdf)

*Joseph A. Konstan is Distinguished McKnight Professor and Distinguished University Teaching Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He is currently serving as chair, Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs and on the Faculty Consultative Committee.*

## P&A Senate Forum



*Preparing ourselves to meet  
grand challenges*

Etty DeVeaux says she came to the University of Minnesota by way of "definitely not!" Coming from the smaller environs of San Salvador, Bahamas, she realized New York might be a little too big.

She landed at the other end of the spectrum, both size- and weather-wise: UM Morris for undergraduate work in English, where she was the first African American in UM Morris's history to deliver a commencement address. It was on to Augsburg for a masters with a concentration in leadership. DeVeaux is currently serving as administrative director for both the Department of Plant Biology and the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

As the recent chair-elect to the P&A Senate for 2015-16, DeVeaux says she is both surprised and not surprised at the small number of people involved in University governance. She would like to get more P&As involved. "One of the most inspiring aspects of shared governance is that all constituents have the opportunity to participate in important decisions regarding the University's mission."

To that, the P&A Senate held a forum on May 6, 2015 "Preparing Ourselves to Meet Grand Challenges," featuring thought leaders from the University and the greater community for a discussion on administrative and professional competencies needed for the University's future.

DeVeaux says at times there can be a push-pull effect between the need to make timely decisions and the necessity of constituent involvement in governance. It can prolong the process and there may be the temptation to take short cuts. But, DeVeaux says, "It is imperative that we engage people in order to make good decisions. We need to give due regard for the welfare of all in the crosshairs of our decision making."

# Governance Working for U

The work of the senates is accomplished primarily through their 25 standing committees, as well as numerous subcommittees and task forces. Faculty, academic professionals, civil service staff, students,

alumni, and administrators have designated positions on most committees. For more information about committees go to:

[www1.umn.edu/usenate/committees.html](http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/committees.html)

## **Civil Service Communication Plan**

The Civil Service Consultative Committee (CSCC) launched its new communications plan. A blog and a Twitter account will keep constituents informed of the CSCC and CS Senate's work on issues that affect them. For more information: <https://sites.google.com/a/umn.edu/csccblog/>

## **"Ban the Box"**

The Student Senate passed a resolution in support of removing or rewriting the criminal history disclosure question in the undergraduate admissions application. The students cited research that shows this question does not create a safer campus, it deters prospective students from applying and it disproportionately affects applicants of color. The question is currently being evaluated by a work group charged by the provost.

## **A Learning Space Master Plan**

The Classroom Advisory Subcommittee (CAS) has written a proposal that outlines why the institution needs a Learning Space Master Plan. The creation of the plan would first involve an inventory of existing spaces. The term 'learning space' is used to encompass informal gathering areas, labs, and outdoor spaces. This proposal was also supported by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (SCEP).

## **Protecting Academic Integrity**

*Advice from students to instructors on protecting academic integrity* was approved by the Student Academic Integrity Committee at its April meeting. The document provides quick tips to prevent cheating and plagiarism, responding to incidents, and how to make the concept of academic integrity an expectation in every class starting on the first day. This document was provided to the University Senate for information at its April 30 meeting and will be sent to all instructors prior to the start of fall semester.



## Working Toward a Family-Friendly Campus

Two committees are considering issues that inform campus climate and the University creating a family-friendly workplace.

The Senate Committee on Faculty Affairs (SCFA) asked the Senate Research Committee (SRC) to look at parental leave issues. At its last meeting of the year in April, SRC approved a resolution urging the administration to structure parental leaves for research staff as a centrally financed benefit through the fringe pool rather than charge them as direct costs. The committee viewed this as integral to the University being a leader as a research institution, as well as it being an issue of equity.

The Student Senate passed two resolutions, one which supported modifying the bereavement portion of the administrative policy on Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences. The other resolution recommends updating the current policy to add that student parents will not be penalized for absences during the semester due to unexpected issues related to caring for a child.



## Big Ten Conference Proposes Year of Readiness

Where is the “student” in “student-athlete”? That was the question for faculty, coaches, and administrators at the Coach/Faculty Conversation in April, hosted by the Advisory Committee on Athletics (ACA). More than 60 attendees discussed the Big Ten Conference’s recently proposed “year of readiness” for freshmen student-athletes in football and men’s basketball. The idea is to focus students on academics in their first year at an institution. The conversation centered around underlying issues and problems institutions would face if this proposal were to be adopted. Much of the discussion centered around revenue being a major driver of these sports, and the major time commitment required of student-athletes.

### Announcements

#### **The 2015 Outstanding Service to University Senate Governance Recognition goes to:**

Stacey Doepner-Hove, program director, Center for Human Resources and Labor Studies, Carlson School of Management

Daniel Feeney, professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine

Joseph Jameson, design manager, Facilities Design Management

#### **2015-2016 Senate Meeting Schedule:**

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/calendars/senmeeting.html>

#### **Policy Information**

For the latest information on policies that may affect you, go to:

[policy.umn.edu/User/POLICYLIB\\_POLICYPOST.html](http://policy.umn.edu/User/POLICYLIB_POLICYPOST.html)

Policies currently under review:

[policy.umn.edu/User/POLICIESREVIEW.html](http://policy.umn.edu/User/POLICIESREVIEW.html)

#### **Civil Service, Faculty, P&A, and Student Senates:**

[www1.umn.edu/usenate](http://www1.umn.edu/usenate)

#### **Do you want to know more about what governance is doing on your behalf?**

#### **Sign up to receive the minutes of University Senate committees at:**

<http://z.umn.edu/theweeklyupdatesignup>

## Adjourned

*Rebecca Ropers-Huilman,  
chair, Faculty and Senate  
Consultative Committees*

As the academic year comes to a close, I want to reflect on the busy year we have had in the Faculty Consultative Committee. We have talked about issues related to faculty engagement and support, student experiences both in and outside of class, policies related to research and engagement, and how we organize ourselves so our diverse students, staff, and faculty are serving in the best ways possible. The success of our strategic plan requires that we lead from where we are -- in classrooms, student groups, administrative offices, departments, colleges, student affairs units, or governance.

I am impressed by the commitment I see on a regular basis from those involved in governance. I want to thank committee chairs and members who took up issues that affect the everyday work of the University as well as those that shape the larger society. I especially want to thank the senate staff who are highly skilled interpersonally and administratively, and serve as true partners in fostering shared governance at the University of Minnesota.

*Rebecca Ropers-Huilman*

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