

11-21-2011

MCSA Forum minutes 11/21/2011

Morris Campus Student Association

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Morris Campus Student Association
University of Minnesota, Morris
Morris, Minnesota 56267

November 21st, 2011

- I.** Roll Call
 - a. Van Cleve called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
 - b. Granaas called roll; Representatives Vue, Narayan, Lindeman and Robinson were absent; Representatives Myhal and Donovan were excused.
- II.** For Action: Approve Agenda
 - a. Govada motioned to approve the agenda; second by N. Wenthe.
 - b. Motion carried.
- III.** For Action: Approve Minutes
 - a. Govada motioned to approve the minutes; second by McBrady.
 - b. Motion carried.
- IV.** President's Remarks
 - a. Some individuals are trying to obtain more information about the insurance changes to make sure we have a very educated viewpoint.
 - b. There is a long agenda today; Forum will likely go past 7pm.
- V.** For Information: MSLC Update *Presented by MSLC Directors Vogel and Preston*
 - a. Last week, MSLC hosted an event to get a feel for student interest. It was very helpful; thank you to those who helped make the event a success.
 - b. Snow kept Preston and Vogel from getting to their platform meeting, which was cancelled anyway. Duluth remains a barrier for MSLC; the charter was defeated by a large vote. MSLC is still working on reaching out to Duluth.
 - c. Support the U Day isn't until April, but the Policy and Pizza Night will be December 1st starting at 5pm. The first part of the event will feature the Chancellor, possibly Bart Finzel, and Preston and Vogel. It will be aimed at teaching students how to conduct themselves in a political atmosphere. This will last until 6pm. The second part of the event will have area legislators available for student mingling from 6:30-8pm; it will be come and go as you please.
 - d. To make Policy and Pizza Night a success, as well as future events, please consider volunteering in the following areas:
 - i. Tabling in the student center

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- ii. Speaking in academic classes (with a professor's permission)
- iii. Posters and odds-and-ends for passive advertisements

VI. For Information: Green Revolving Fund *Presented by Representatives Blankenfeld and Peters*

- a. Guest presenter Lucas Felts gave Forum members some background about Green Revolving Funds: how it works, what the benefits are, and how it might be applied to UMM. Felts explained that these projects generally show a large return over time because the projects that are funded are usually overlooked. This fund fulfills a specific way to provide small capital improvements with a Green mindset.
- b. Blankenfeld and Peters gave a summary of what a proposal would look like based on the talks around campus regarding the initial interest and research. Please see the conceptual proposal provided in your agendas.
- c. Discussion topics included some conceptual fund amounts, starting amounts for the fund, administrative input possibility and benefits, a control for replenishment, the need for governing guidelines that are specific to UMM, accountability of fund use, optimism for the fund, and feasibility of projects.
- d. Govada announced that this subject was brought forward to get Forum's initial feedback on the principle of a Green Revolving Funds. The next steps will include a more formal, structured proposal to be voted upon that can be taken to the administration.
- e. Patterson motioned that Forum endorse the idea of a green revolving fund and further investigate its merit; second by Showalter.
 - i. Nyberg called the question; second by McBrady.
 - ii. Motion carried.
- f. Discussion continued. Topics included the idea of a Green Revolving Fund and the merits of combining student money with administrative funds.

VII. For Information: Senate Committee on Education Policy *Presented by President Govada*

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- a. The first issue presented is a proposal to publish a list of teachers rated as excellent by their students; this information was sent to campus assembly representatives by Peh Ng, who would like to solicit opinions from students.
 - i. Discussion regarding the proposal to publish list of teachers rated as excellent ensued. Topics included the necessity to make data available to students, the benefits and consequences of the list to both students and professors, survey biases, potential sway of student opinion, how the data is collected and used, promotion and tenure influence, barriers to release, potential stigmas associated with ratings, and survey organization.
- b. The second issue presented is a proposed resolution on transcripts to better inform individuals regarding the meaning of grades.
 - i. Discussion ensued. Topics included impact for students, national trends, possible retroactive application, and the possibility for future discussions.

VIII. Organization Reports

- a. ResLife is further investigating the possibility of a Queer Issues Theme Floor.

IX. Old Business

- a. None

X. New Business

- a. Jayne is hosting the annual MCSA end-of-semester bash! It will be Sunday, December 10th. Time is TBD.

XI. Adjourn

- a. Showalter motioned to adjourn; second by N. Wentz.
- b. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.

XII. MCSA Committee meetings

- a. Cancelled or rescheduled due to time constraints.