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Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes—4/8/02**

Present: Katherine Benson, Ardath Larson, Sara Haugen, Rita Lambert, Barbara Burke, Andy Grassmann, Trish Welte, Lori Koshork, Sandy Olson-Loy, Heather Pennie, Gina Westlund, Matt Johnson

Guest Kevin Vogeltanz, Allison Harrell, Kevin Ely, Steve Stolpman

Absent: Vivian Heltemes, Clare Strand, Mike Benson

I. Student Organization Constitutions

a. Recommended changes in the Constitution of the Union of Science Fiction Writers

1. Change all name references of Fantasy Union for Creative Knowledge to Union of Science Fiction Writers.
2. Clarification of process of obtaining membership.
3. Stay gender neutral through out.
4. More concrete and concise.

b. MCSA Constitution Amendments – Passed by email vote.

II. Queer Issues Sub-Committee Chair information—will be emailed out.

III. New Business:

The guests asked the committee to permit a discussion of the student election rules:

*Steve requested that the committee extend the deadline for candidates to file for election because several of the races are uncontested. This move would counter student apathy and be ‘truly democratic.’

*Allison Harrell, SSC Election Commissioner reviewed the election rules, indicated that the Election Commission had considered the request for an extension and determined that this would violate election rules. The commission referred the petitioners to SSC for further discussion.

*Harell noted that people who were interested in running, but hadn’t submitted a petition of reason could organize a write-in campaign. Write-ins are bound by the same election rules as others in relation to expenses.

*Can write-ins take part in 4/8 candidates’ debate? Harell – no, but they could use the time set aside at the end of the debate to meet potential voters and they could ask the registered candidates questions that would highlight the write-ins’ concerns/platform

*Do write-ins have same access to KUMM & UR rebutals? Historically, the radio station and the newspaper have allowed all interested parties to use the media to get their voices heard.

SSC members noted that, although disappointing, the lack of candidates was not a compelling argument for changing the rules and extending the deadline. A motion was made and passed: the date of the deadline for petition submission would remain as set by the election commission.

On the request to allow write in candidates to participate in the debate, a motion was made and passed not to alter the structure of the debate due to timing of debate but to re-visit this issue next year.

Meeting adjourned 5:15pm.