

10-24-2001

## Student Affairs minutes 10/24/2001

Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee  
Minutes — 10/24/01**

Present: Katherine Benson, Ardath Larson, Vivian Heltemes, Sara Haugen, Clare Strand, Rita Lambert, Barbara Burke, Mike Benson, Trish Welte, Lori Koshork, Sandy Olson-Loy

Absent: Heather Pennie, Gina Westlund, Matt Johnson, Andy Grassman

**I. Welcome, Introductions, and Election of Committee Chair.** The meeting was convened by Katherine Benson who gave the welcome and asked the Student Services Committee (SSC) members to introduce themselves. Benson announced that Gina Westlund had been named as the replacement for student representative Anna Mathis, who is studying abroad this semester.

Benson announced that additional teaching responsibilities have forced her to resign the position of chair of the SSC, but she will continue to serve on the committee. The Executive Committee had requested that Benson convene this meeting and that the SSC elect a new chair from within the committee ranks. A committee member noted that it was the Executive Committee's responsibility to appoint a new chair. Olson-Loy responded that the Executive Committee had requested that the SSC have this conversation internally.

Benson announced that future SSC meetings for fall semester would be:

Friday, November 9, from 11:00 - 12:00 noon — Behmler Conf. Room

Wednesday, November 28, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. — Behmler Conf. Room.

Benson asked if there were any volunteers to chair the SSC. Hearing none, she opened the floor for nominations. Vivian Heltemes nominated Barbara Burke. Other individuals were nominated and the nominations declined. After discussion, Barbara Burke accepted the nomination and proceeded with the meeting as chair.

**II. Charge to the Committee.** Burke read the charge to the committee as stated in the Powers and Bylaws of the UMM Constitution. A committee member mentioned that the phrase in section 5A, Membership should be corrected to read "Commission on Women" instead of the current "Coordinator of Minnesota Plan II." It was noted that this was pointed out last year and the correction is in process.

**III. SSC Annual Report.** Benson reviewed the SSC Annual Report for 2000-2001 that was sent out with the agenda. She also commented on membership and upcoming issues for subcommittees for the current year.

Benson noted that the Food Service Subcommittee that had served in 2000-2001 was reappointed for the current academic year to facilitate the transition to the new vendor and to continue to monitor the quality of the food served. Ardath Larson, Trish Welte, Sara Haugen, and Sandy Olson-Loy, of the SSC, will continue to serve on that Subcommittee.

Lori Koshork has agreed to chair the Health Services Subcommittee this year. Student health insurance will be once topic that the subcommittee will be addressing. As a note of information, it was mentioned that the Health Service Subcommittee had overseen the procedural change in the student class excuse policy as part of their subcommittee work last year. Health Services will no longer be issuing class excuses except for verifiable illness. A student must be seen at Health Services or another health service provider if they are ill. If they are too ill to come to Health Services, they should phone and then be seen within a few days. If they were seen by another health service provider, they must bring documentation of the visit. This is not a change in policy, but rather an enforcement of policy already in place.

Argie Manolis will again chair the Queer Issues Subcommittee. The subcommittee would like to implement a survey during the current academic year to investigate the campus climate.

Judy Kuechle is chair of the Student Behavior Subcommittee, with Dave Aronson as secretary. Proceedings of this subcommittee are confidential. Judy Kuechle has notified the SSC that she may need to resign her position as chair

because of mounting obligations.

The Student Employment Subcommittee has not been formed for the current academic year. The Student Organization Subcommittee will continue with Matt Beckendorff as chair, but committee membership has not been determined. There are a number of constitutions that this subcommittee will need to review this year. The Student Elections Subcommittee will be appointed next term.

**IV. Select membership for subcommittees.** Ardath Larson and Barbara Burke have both accepted membership on the Student Employment Subcommittee, but neither desired to serve as chair. [It was later recommended that Barbara Burke not serve on this subcommittee since she had accepted the position of SSC Chair.] Olson-Loy noted that the Student Employment Subcommittee might wish to address the wage rates for student employees, including looking at a possible increase in the pay rate for a student working in the same position for multiple years. Also, the subcommittee may want to look at the model used by the Twin Cities campus for variable pay rates.

The subcommittee is made up of three faculty/staff members, two student members, and Pam Engebretson, Director of Financial Aid, as ex officio. Discussion ensued as to possible contacts to fill the committee membership. Sandy Olson-Loy will contact Larry Christenson, Ray Schultz, and Julie Kill to see if they would serve as faculty/staff members. Three student names were also mentioned as possible committee members. The subcommittee makeup will be determined by the next meeting. [Ardath Larson later agreed to serve as chair of this subcommittee.]

Sara Haugen noted that there are currently ten constitutions for the Student Organization Subcommittee to review. Some have minor revisions and will not need to be seen by the full SSC. Others are new or have major revisions that will need to be seen. Matt Beckendorff was checking with a student, an English major, to see if she would be willing to serve on the committee. Kathy Benson noted that she would be interested in serving. Sara Haugen will check with Matt to see if he would like Kathy Benson's assistance on the committee.

There was a question as to whether or not the housing issues should be addressed by a subcommittee or by the full Student Services Committee. It was determined that the full committee would address it at this point. Items that may come up are the inspection issues in rental housing within the city of Morris. Another question concerns the appeal of UMM housing offered to our students in the residence halls and in the apartments. How does our housing compare to that of other public liberal arts colleges? There are no new issues pending, but the committee may wish to discuss this at some point.

**V. Issue of Faculty Advisors for Student Organizations with Funding.** Agenda item 5 was tabled until the next meeting.

**VI. Background and update from Trish Welte, MCSA VP for Student Services, on the housing/tenants issue.** Trish Welte presented information regarding the current discussion about tenant/landlord rights and housing inspections. She began with some background information. The referendum enforced state codes in housing and the requirement to have rental housing inspected. The City of Morris is currently doing the inspections, but did have one landlord who was unwilling and challenged the requirement on grounds that it was against the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment to the US Constitution. Morris City Council voted to stay the suspension of his license. He later allowed the inspections and the city completed all but one.

Welte is working with Melanie Fohl, Director of HRA, and Ryan Brux, currently interning with HRA, to complete a qualitative survey fair housing practices in the city of Morris. Melanie Fohl is currently working on revising language of the Rental Registration Ordinance. Of concern is the current ordinance language that allows for a landlord to appeal an inspection ruling to the Building Appeals Board, but does not include the same appeal process for the tenant.

The SSC discussed current methods used to educate students about their rights as tenants and of the resources available through the HRA. The HRA web site was distributed to committee members, and it was suggested that the site be linked to the web pages of Student Activities, Student Services Committee, and the Commission on Women.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by Melody Veenendaal

