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Student Affairs minutes 11/09/2001

Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes – 11/09/01**

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

Absent: Heather Pennie, Gina Westlund, Matt Johnson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 10/24/01

MOTION: (Heltemes, Benson) To approve the minutes as amended.

VOTE: Unanimous in favor (10-0-0)

II. PETITION REGARDING ADVISORS FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Olson-Loy gave background information regarding the student petition. The petition recommends the requirement of faculty advisors for any student organization with funding from the student activity fee and an annual audit of any student organization with a checkbook.

The SSC discussed the difficulty of finding advisors to work with the many student organizations on campus. If an organization was required to have a faculty advisor, it might be impossible for some organizations to exist. The committee also discussed the role of advisors to the organizations. The involvement of advisors varied, with some advisors seen as very involved and some with a “hands-off, available if needed” approach. Lambert handed out a list of student organizations with advisors, but noted that other groups may have advisors that were not reported.

There was additional discussion related to groups receiving funding, the possibility of specific requirements for groups receiving certain levels of funding, and specific requirements for groups with potential liability issues for UMM.

The committee determined they needed time to develop specific proposals for consideration. They identified three areas that should be considered:

1. organizations without advisors
2. organizations without advisors that receive funding
3. audits of organizations with checkbooks

III. HEALTH SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

Lori Koshork, Chair of the Health Services Subcommittee, reported on the work of the Health Service Subcommittee. The subcommittee was researching a possible recommendation regarding a hard waiver for student health insurance. The hard waiver would require that students who do not show proof of health insurance would automatically be enrolled in the college insurance program. The subcommittee estimates that 15% of our student body do not have health insurance. U of M Crookston, U of M Twin Cities, and U of M Duluth already have the hard waiver requirement in place.

Statistics have shown that students without health insurance that encounter catastrophic health problems generally have to leave school to pay their medical bills. Other data indicates that students without medical insurance are frequently most in need of the insurance. They frequently demonstrate an increased level of risky behavior or lack the preventative care needed to maintain good health.

Before the Health Services Subcommittee submits a formal recommendation to the SSC, they will obtain a summary from peer institutions of what the peer institutions are doing regarding the hard waiver. This information will be presented with the formal recommendation so the SSC has solid information on which to base their vote.

IV. ATHLETIC CONSULTANT

Sandy Olson-Loy mentioned that UMM had contracted with Dr. Elizabeth (Betsy) Alden, athletic consultant, who would be making her first visit to UMM on November 13 and 14. She noted that the first visit would primarily focus on meetings with faculty, staff, and students linked with the athletics department. Olson-Loy encouraged the SSC members to attend the Campus Open Meeting/Project Overview scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, from 3:30- 4:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theater. [This visit was later postponed due to a death in Dr. Alden's family.]

Meeting adjourned 12:00 noon
Submitted by Melody Veenendaal