

10-11-2004

## Student Affairs minutes 10/11/2004

Student Affairs Committee

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### Recommended Citation

Student Affairs Committee, "Student Affairs minutes 10/11/2004" (2004). *Student Affairs Committee*. 88.  
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**UMM Student Services Committee  
Minutes - 10/11/04**

Present: Julie Pelletier, Kristie Kehrwald, Sara Haugen, Dave Swenson, Carla Riley, Jason Steinbrenner, Solomon Gashaw, Jennifer Zych

Absent: Gail Hockert, Heather Pennie, Nick Peterson, Judy Riley

**I. Introduction** of committee members and review of committee's membership and charge from the UMM constitution bylaws. Sara Haugen recommended that language within the bylaws be updated to read "...and one the Coordinator of ~~Minnesota Plan II~~ Commission on Women." Chair Julie Pelletier will forward this recommendation to the Executive Committee.

**II. Minutes of the April 28, 2004 Meeting**

MOTION: (Pelletier, Gashaw) To approve April 28, 2004 minutes as written.

VOTE: Unanimous approval

**III. Subcommittees for 2004-05**

A. Dining Services

Henry Fulda has agreed to serve as chair for this academic year. Pelletier will arrange with Fulda to report at the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> SSC meeting of the fall semester.

B. Health Services

Heather Pennie will serve as Health Services chair.

C. Queer Issues

Lori Koshork is the 2004-05 chair of this subcommittee. Melody Veenendaal read Koshork's report to SSC. Koshork reported the QIS had met three times this fall and have set goals for the year. Safe Zone I training had 20 participants in the first of four sessions planned for the year. Safe Zone II training will be held twice and Safe Zone III is planned for once this year. Other goals include outreach to the community and compiling a list of GLBT themed courses offered at UMM.

D. Student Behavior

Jon Anderson is serving as chair, with Henry Fulda and Julie Phelps serving as administrative support.

E. Student Employment

Pareena Lawrence and Paula O'Loughlin will be co-chairing this subcommittee. They will present the final version of revised Financial Aid policies to the SSC when the policies are completed. ~~related to Financial Aid student employment policies~~

**IV. Twin Cities Lawsuit Settlement**

~~Motion~~ Dave Swenson, director of Student Activities, informed the committee of the recent lawsuit filed against the University of Minnesota by a student organization on the

Twin City campus, and the resulting settlement. The lawsuit was filed because the organization believed the U of M nondiscrimination statement infringed on its freedom of religion. Swenson stated that the lawsuit settlement applies to religious organizations with a clear statement of faith. The settlement allows for use of the statement of faith in place of the U of M nondiscrimination policy. To date, only one student organization within the entire U of M system has applied this settlement in its constitution.

As a result of this settlement, an organization can limit membership and positions of office to individuals who agree with the organization's statement of faith. However, all activities of the organization must be open to everyone.

The University did not feel they would be able to win a lawsuit on this issue, so they compromised with this settlement. A number of faculty and staff members are protesting the agreement at the Senate level.

## **V. Old Business**

### **a. AISES Constitution**

Chair Pelletier announced that the AISES constitution had been approved via electronic vote.

### **b. UMM Mascot Policy**

Pelletier shared the origin and history of the proposed mascot policy with new SSC members. The policy had been presented for approval to Campus Assembly last spring. Campus Assembly recommended that the committee consult with U General Counsel about policy language, specifically in regard to another team's freedom of speech.

The revised policy requires that UMM not intentionally schedule competition with a team with an offensive mascot or team nickname. In the event of unscheduled play with a team using an offensive mascot, UMM has the option of not announcing a team nickname and/or not printing the nickname on what we produce. In this way, we can express our disapproval of the name without impinging on another team's freedom of speech.

The committee discussed the difficulty this would impose on club sports since they often have limited or no options in selecting the conference in which they chose to play. A suggestion was made that the policy include two levels of enforcement:

- level one would provide no flexibility and would apply only to athletic teams
- level two, for all student organizations including club sports, would express an objection but allow the organization to participate with the team with the offensive nickname/mascot.

Dave Swenson offered to check with Randi Peterson, Intramural and Club Sports coordinator, to see what the impact this policy would have on current club sports teams at UMM. The committee agreed to table a decision on the policy until the club sport impact had been examined.

**VI. New Business**~~Article I. Section 4 Section 4~~ -- The purpose of Chi Alpha is to learn and grow in our relationship with God and share with others about Christ's love in a multicultural setting -- ~~& Article II. Section I -- Section 1~~ Membership is open to all students without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, creed, marital status, public assistance status, veteran status or sexual orientation -- **and Article II. Section 4** -- A voting member can be removed if that person ceases to endorse the purpose of our organization as outlined in Article I, Section 4 -- seem to contradict each other.

a) A suggestion has been made that the Sexual Violence Prevention Committee become a subcommittee of the Student Services Committee. This relationship would lend support, provide continuity when the grant is over, and provide official standing in the UMM community. This relationship would be suggested to the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee members for their reaction. If they have no objections, the proposal would be presented to the Executive Committee for inclusion on the Campus Assembly meeting agenda. Jason Steinbrenner and Nick Peterson will inform SSC of the subcommittee's response at the next meeting.

b) The remaining fall semester meetings are scheduled for:

November 10	8:00 A.M.	Prairie Lounge
November 24	8:00 A.M.	Prairie Lounge
December 8	8:00 A.M.	Prairie Lounge

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

Submitted Melody Veenendaal