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Student Affairs minutes 02/21/2006

Student Affairs Committee

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**UMM Student Services Committee
Minutes – February 21, 2006**

Present: Nate Hilfiker, Jennifer Herrmann, Katie Clark, Judy Riley, Sara Haugen,
Carla Riley, Nick Petersen, Gail Hockert, Dave Swenson

Absent: Joe Alia, Michael Eble, Dave Nelson, Julie Pelletier, Adam Yust,

Guests: Nikki Michaelson, Henry Fulda

I. Approve Minutes February 7 and February 14, 2006

MOTION: (Nate, Gail) To approve the February 7 minutes as written and the February 14 minutes reflecting Gail Hockert's presence at the meeting.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

II. Health Services Subcommittee

Henry Fulda, associate vice chancellor for student life, and Nikki Michaelson, Wellness Center intern, were present to submit a proposal from the Health Services Subcommittee. Fulda reported that Boynton Health Service, U of M Twin Cities campus, has developed an in-house U of M system-wide student health insurance policy. Claims are paid directly out of the U of M fund. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is the underwriter, but they are involved only if claims go above the expected level and exceed the U of M funds available. This allows the U of M to offer the insurance plan at such low rate.

All U of M system campuses except UMM are currently using this health insurance. In fact, this has caused some problems in the past couple of years since students who transfer from one U of M campus to UMM have sometimes assumed they were still covered by the U of M policy. UMD and UMC feedback on the policy has been positive

The expected premium cost for the 2006-2007 academic year would be \$680. This would cover the student from mid-August 2006 until mid-August 2007. This is more than what UMM students are paying for coverage through Specialty Risk insurance, but students consulted felt the increase was worthwhile since the coverage was better. Financial aid is often available to help students cover the policy premiums.

The Boynton health insurance policy offered a number of improvements over the current Specialty Risk policy:

- better pharmaceutical coverage
- claims do not require upfront payment and subsequent reimbursement
- students new to UMM in January would receive immediate coverage instead of waiting for the end of February as they currently do with Specialty Risk.

If approved, UMM would begin offering this coverage during the 2006-2007 academic year.

Committee members wondered what percent of UMM students carried Specialty Risk insurance. Fulda reported that about 100 students were current policyholders. Members wondered if

international students could receive coverage through this policy. Fulda said international students on the Twin Cities campus are required to use this policy or purchase a policy through a US insurance company. Fulda recommends that UMM have the same requirement for UMM's international students.

MOTION: (Nate, Katie C) To approve Health Services Subcommittee's recommendation for UMM to use the University of Minnesota's Student Health Benefit Plan.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

III. Posting and Distributing Policy at UMM

Feedback from External Relations and Science and Math about the proposed UMM posting policy was shared with the committee. Comments included:

- Posters should not be approved prior to posting.
- Posters should be required to have a contact name clearly visible on them.
- Individuals should have freedom of expression, but provide means for accountability.
- Oversight should not be a University Relations function.
- Legal and free speech implications should be considered before implementing this policy.
- Explore what other campuses have for posting policies.
- Mixed views on centralized approval for postings.
- 100% agreement that all postings around campus should have an affiliation on them and a date when they were posted. If lacking, the posters could be removed.

A member reported that MCSA had concerns about free speech and legality issues in requiring a name on all posters. Other questions arose regarding who would police the postings around campus. SSC members wondered about the impact for off-campus individuals that wouldn't know of UMM's posting policy. It was recognized that posters from off-campus generally had some type of contact information included since they were typically encouraging attendance at some event or organization.

Gail Hockert expressed a concern with this policy. The current situation allows us to know what thoughts and ideas are out there. If individuals are not allowed to express their thoughts, the thoughts don't go away. If individuals aren't allowed to freely express opinions, the attitudes or opinions may be expressed in other ways.

Tracy Smith, U General Counsel, advised Dave Swenson that UMM does not have a right to judge or take action against a poster's content, but the policy would require groups take responsibility for their statements. Swenson said most universities have a policy of this nature, usually requiring contact information. Student activities offices on most campuses usually oversee the policy.

The committee decided to table discussion, waiting for feedback from Michael Eble and the Humanities Division. Swenson will also have a revised and updated version of the proposed policy for review at the next meeting.

IV. Student Organization Constitution

A. Boffers League

Dave Swenson consulted with Tracy Smith, U General Counsel, regarding this organization's constitution and the wisdom of UMM requiring any specific "weapons" construction. Tracy

Smith said that the less specific the language is the better. If we require very specific construction, we are under an obligation to verify that the organization is abiding by the requirements.

MOTION: (Nate, Katie C) To approve the Boffers League constitution.

VOTE: Unanimous approval.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.
Submitted Melody Veenendaal