

1-14-1999

## Student Affairs minutes 01/14/1999

Student Affairs Committee

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### Recommended Citation

Student Affairs Committee, "Student Affairs minutes 01/14/1999" (1999). *Student Affairs Committee*. 58.  
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UMM Student Services Committee  
Minutes - 1/14/99

Present: LeAnn Dean, Shannon Hodges, Joe Timmerman, Sandy Olson-Loy,  
Sara Haugen, Nancy Mooney, Gary Hedin, Jill Farris,  
Christy Kolle,  
Amanda Spielman, Katherine Benson, Michael Snowden

Guest: Gary McGrath

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by LeAnn Dean.

### Constitutions

Sandy explained the process of approving constitutions. The Weightlifting/Fitness Club constitution was approved on a motion by Shannon Hodges, second by Joe Timmerman pending minor revisions. Carried. The Diversity Peer Educators constitution was approved on a motion by Gary Hedin pending minor revisions, second by Amanda Spielman. Carried.

### NCA Self Study

LeAnn noted that she had spoken to Jim Togeas, chair of the committee, about the relationship between the SSC and their committee. LeAnn was happy to find out that Sandy is on the subcommittee charged with looking at extra-curricular activities outside the classroom as it relates to student life. Sandy reported there are four categories:

- A. Too many UMM students leave campus for the weekend, which is detrimental to the quality of student academic life.
- B. UMM's extra-curricular programs promote respect for diversity of culture, ethnicity, race, gender, and sexual orientation.
- C. The athletic program at UMM is a valuable tool for recruitment and retention. Athletes at UMM succeed academically to the same degree and graduate at the same rate as the student body as a whole.
- D. Students who participate actively on campus life are more likely to stay at UMM than those who don't.

Katherine Benson also noted that there have been psychological studies done on how the layout of dormitories affect whether or not students stay on campus. Gary McGrath also noted that retention reports show that students prefer smaller buildings with less students. LeAnn thanked Sandy for keeping us informed and involved.

### Mandatory Activity Fee

Gary McGrath reported that the University of Minnesota is in the midst of a law suit regarding mandatory activity fees as noted in the March 1998

Chronicle of Higher Education. The article notes "... colleges would be at risk of First Amendment lawsuits challenging the use of mandatory fees to support groups with political or ideological agendas." Most public colleges have some process through which mandatory fees paid by students are distributed to student groups. The Supreme Court's 1995 decision in *Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia* declared that if an institution collects mandatory activity fees from its students, it cannot deny those funds to religious groups. Sandy noted that after discussions and suggestions from the Twin Cities campus, we dropped the categorization of student groups. She also noted that there will be an ITV video conference with June Nobbe and Kathy Brown who are currently working on this. Sandy will inform the committee when that video conference is scheduled. She also noted that she contacts either June or Kathy when questions arise to make sure we are up to date.

#### Poster Policy on Campus

Sandy reported she received a letter from a faculty member questioning whether it was time to consider a poster policy for the campus. She noted the Student Center does have a poster policy, which the Info Desk oversees. LeAnn stated that the Library also has its own policy. Currently, there isn't anyone responsible for posters, besides custodians. Nancy Mooney suggested creating an electronic bulletin board. Nancy will talk to John Bowers about this possibility. The committee will discuss this further at a later date.

#### Agenda Items for the upcoming meetings:

- Food Service issues
- Rental housing issues
- RFC issues

Committee will meet Thursday, January 28. LeAnn will invite Cathleen Brannen to the meeting.

Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Submitted by Carrie Grussing