Student Senate Minutes

Wednesday, April 2nd 2014

1. Call to Order
   a. Senator Savalia called the meeting to order
   b. 30 members present with 1 guest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes
   a. March Minutes approved

3. Roll Call with Clickers

4. Guest Speaker:
   a. Cheryl Thompson, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
      i. Student Ambassador Program
         1. Second round of ambassadors being solicited for the fall. In the past it has been difficult for international students to acclimate to life, school and studying in the United States. We sometimes teach/learn differently than other cultures. This program is launched with International Orientation in August. Senate was graciously offered the job of running the program but not something we would be able to coordinate on our own. Student Affairs office will continue administering and organizing the program. Anyone who wants to join the program as an Ambassador should contact Dr. Cheryl Thompson or Deb Keim.
      ii. Compliance Hotline
         1. It can be found at wiki.unmc.edu/compliance_hotline which is a way to anonymously report any noncompliant behavior on UNMC’s campus. The phone number is 1-866-568-5430.
         2. Senator Jameson suggested a link in Information for Students on UNMC.EDU.
         3. Senator Shaw suggested it be required into every syllabus.
         4. Senator Savalia suggested Blackboard. And perhaps we should place this on the student mobile application once it’s created. Also suggested was adding it to the back of our student ID badges as one of the emergency numbers.
         5. The Grievance Policy was also discussed and differentiated from the Compliance Policy. Grievance Policy will ensure confidentiality, but is not an anonymous process by virtue of reporting. The compliance hotline is an anonymous report made over the phone.
      iii. Communication with Students: graduation/tuition deadlines, FERPA, UNMC email
         1. Cheryl asked for the best way to communicate with students.
         2. Sen. Jameson: Email, some students just don’t pay attention like they should.
         3. Sen. Goertzen stated that emails that have “you” as the email recipient may catch student attention because it doesn’t seem like a blanket email to the entire student body although it is. This may be done by BCCing all the other recipients to whom the email is being sent.
         4. Sen. Morales stated that reaching out to each class president in the individual colleges on campus to spread the word of
5. Advisor’s Report
   a. Dr. Carver encouraged everyone to get involved with the Student Ambassador program to support International Students at UNMC. Lots of work has been pushed in this direction to help student acclimate to UNMC and the United States. Everyone should try to take advantage of this great resource and participate. Dr. Carver also congratulated the Senators on the Mentor Award Reception earlier this week in honor of Dr. Diego Torres.

6. Executive Council’s Reports:
   a. President
      i. Regent’s Meeting Report & Student Senate Presidential Search Profile
         1. Last month’s meeting was jam-packed with quite a few resolutions: President Milliken, and each of the other 3 Student Regents from UNO, UNL, UNK. A few business items that pertained to UNMC were discussed and voted on, including two expensive and worthwhile pieces of research equipment (confocal microscope, flow cytometer). The capabilities of these pieces of equipment will help research on this campus considerable and also help make the University a more competitive place.
         2. Dr. Jim Linder was elected as interim President. He graduated from UNMC and completed his residency in Pathology at Duke University, before returning to Nebraska to practice medicine. He’s been heavily involved in education, research, administration, and entrepreneurship (through UNIMED) for quite some time. He is familiar with UNMC and was a part of the UNMC Chancellor Search for Dr. Gold. We are very pleased with this appointment and look forward to his leadership during this integral transition period for our university.
         3. Senate was asked to consider qualities in Presidents that should be in candidates. 2/13th of the voting members on the Search Committee are students.
   4. Question 1: What do you hope the next University of Nebraska president will be able to accomplish and how will you know in the next three to five years that the right person was hired?
      a. Sen. Shaw suggested someone who is experienced in enrollment goals. Someone who can handle an expanding and broadening system.
      b. Sen. Savalia noted that someone who can understand the financial risks of new buildings/endeavors (i.e. the Cancer Center, the clinical enterprise) and how this would affect the University.
   5. Question 2: What do you feel are the key issues, challenges and opportunities facing the campuses, the university as a whole, and the state in the years ahead?
      a. Sen. Coburn the classrooms are getting flipped so we need someone who understands that online classes are going to dominate the landscape. However, this individual must be able to understand the challenges of this changing landscape as well.
b. Sen. Blake notes that we need someone who can understand how progressive healthcare is going to be. Importantly, this understanding will likely influence the way students are and should be educated. It will be important to recruit a “visionary” leader.

c. Sen. Price, the UNK Allied Health complex is going up and becoming a business. There is a projection of a med school out there so an interprofessional focus needs to continue. Understanding this goal and embracing the challenges will be important.

d. Sen. Schiller, we have a very diverse University system between the Campuses. So the future president needs to understand this challenge and diversity, as well as respect the differences between each of the campuses while maintaining each respective college’s growth.

6. Question 3: What kinds of prior experiences, skills and personal attributes should the next president have? What is essential and what might be helpful?
   a. Sen. Jameson, someone who is sociable and able to speak with students and other professionals.
   b. Sen. Shaw, focusing on keeping NE education affordable.

7. Question 4: Is there anyone you would recommend for this position, and why?
   a. No suggestions.

ii. UNMC Student Regent Parking Spot – Jared Matya (College of Pharmacy)
   1. He has been manning the Issues Committee like a boss. He steps up to the place and gets the minutes done and sent out in a timely fashion. Thanks Jared, for being a true contributor to our team and for being a “rock” on our Senate!

iii. 1098T Form Tax Issue
   1. The error in these tax forms from 2012 has created quite a mess and confusion among our students during the year of filing 2013 taxes. Dr. Cheryl Thompson has been working on this considerably; affected students with corrected 1098T’s have been sent personal emails to update them on the errors/corrections. The 2012-2013 tax year 1098T forms were affected. A specialist has been hired to come and do a 1-on-1 with the affected individuals. Approximately 360 people were affected. Tax payers have 5 years to submit amendments to their tax forms. It took some time to negotiate how students would be compensated for this error made by the university, and it has ultimately been decided that UNMC will assume responsibility for the costs of penalties associated with this error and/or cost of correcting these tax forms.

   2. Dr. Carver wanted to know who is affected.
      a. Dr. Thompson: This affected individuals who received financial aid during the summer of 2012.

b. Vice President
   i. Mobile Device App – Design Selection
1. Duke’s App was selected as the favored app design among 17 Senators:
   76% Duke, 18% Vanderbilt, 6% Iowa
2. Sen. Zehr also recommended the design of University of Virginia
3. Sen. Morales reminded us that these apps are not available for those individuals who have a Windows phone; how can we have them download apps?
4. Sen. Marion and Sen. Sheeran asked that we ensure student safety and security of information when an application is created. For example, our names and contact information should only be available under a secure log-in to University staff/faculty/employee/students. Senator Savalia suggested an “opt-in” solution vs. an “opt-out” for availability of this information.

   c. Secretary
      i. Updating blog.unmc.edu/mcss to make it usable and clear.
      ii. Sen. Marion asked if we can identify the “hit count” to our site/blog to see how useful it is having and updating it. Dr. Carver pointed out that many faculty members browse our site to see what Student Senate is up to and what we’re accomplishing over the year.
      iii. It was suggested that the “Acts of Senate” be changed to “Legislation” or “Business of the Senate”

   d. Treasurer
      i. Budget & Financial Account Information
         1. Cost Center right under $60,000
         2. We still have the Pamies Fund in cash value of $1,800.
         3. Petty cash is at $131, but the Activities Committee has suggested we keep $200 in reserve primarily for the purpose of ticket sales change.
         4. The $570 in the Fire Relief Fund for UNO students has had a few issues with transfer of NU Foundation funds from our Endowment to the UNO Fire Relief Fund. Our rules for this account do not allow us to transfer/donate funds and therefore we will have to meet with the Foundation representatives/legal with Dr. Carver and see if we can change this for the future.
         5. The 42 $11 Target gift cards have been sent out and distributed among the students who suffered from the UNO Fire. A few responses of gratitude were emailed to the UNMC Student Senate President account.

7. College Reports:
   a. Allied Health
      i. Nothing to Report
   b. College of Medicine
      i. Hippocratic Hustle on April 11th.
      ii. COM was placed on warning status by LCME. Task Forces have been assigned at the medical center, and students are included on these task forces to help address the areas of concern and non-compliance. The task forces will collectively create a document, which will be submitted to the LCME in August 2014. This report will be followed up with a small site-visit by LCME.
      iii. Mainly the areas of non-compliance were logistical issues with tracking clinical experiences, identifying learning objectives, etc.
iv. The Donor Ceremony is on April 18th, Good Friday, for the Anatomy Donors.

c. College of Nursing
   i. Nothing to Report

d. College of Pharmacy
   i. Sen. Schomer matched into a residency program at UC Davis in California.
   ii. Search for Dr. Krobot’s replacement (Associate Dean) is still on-going.

e. College of Public Health
   i. Dean Search still underway, two finalists left. Tomorrow and next week the students will have interview meetings with the finalists.
   ii. Goal: Have the position filled by July 1st
   iii. Next week is Public Health Week, Fourth year running. An email with all the detailed description of events went out earlier today through studentcommunication@unmc.edu
   iv. Chief Medical Officer: Joe Sisserno is coming to discuss issues with students during Public Health Week.

f. Graduate Studies
   i. HOLI this Saturday on the green outside the Sorrell Center. Indian restaurants from all over Omaha have provided lots of food. It’s from 11am to 1pm. Ticket sales for a raffle (Kindle Fire) will be available until Friday, with all proceeds go to Ronald McDonald House. The Square app (mobile application to use credit cards) is being used to reduce the need for cash among the Graduate Student Association, if anyone has questions on how to incorporate use of such an app for their own student organizations contact (Ariel Burns, GSA Treasurer). This event is a cultural event, the first of its kind on the UNMC campus; colored powder is thrown everywhere...literally everywhere, as a celebration of color and love (and also as a prank).
   ii. Flash Mob will happen at the HOLI event; they are still searching for dancers. It will be a 5-10min choreographed dance. It may sound intense, but it’s for fun and all you need to do is follow someone else’s lead. Senator Coburn will be showing off his dance skills.

8. Committee Reports:
   a. Activities Committee
      i. Mentor Award Reception
         1. This Monday. 30 RSVP with 12 showing up. It was a great event, Senators Marion, Leahy, and Jamison did an amazing job planning this event. Senator Savalia asked that in the future, Senators show up if they have RSVPed for the event. It’s important that we stay accountable when we support hosting events, no matter what they are for.
      
ii. Spring Events
      1. Spring Spirit Day: there were root beer floats and an incredible popcorn bar. The event got rocked by Public Relations.

   b. Issues Committee
      i. Student Health Concerns w/LCME: discuss survey
         1. Dr. Gold really wanted feedback on survey questions. Right now we only have LCME questions. This area affects all students not just the COM. Students and LCME don’t believe the hours are conducive to student convenience.
2. The purpose is to address the LCME concerns but with the bigger picture of also identifying if there are other areas of issue/concerns among our student body with regard to our student health services.

3. Sen. Coburn: It would be a good idea to add in some information at the end post-submission.

4. Sen. Savalia: Encourage everyone to fill out the survey. Also, a committee should be made to own Student Health to address future concerns. We will ensure that student representatives sit on this committee as well.

c. Academic Affairs Committee
   i. Policy Review
      1. Educational Council minutes: there is no current UNMC policy on student alcohol abuse and there is a push to address this. Fights at post-test events result in UNMC staff/administers being notified, so the issue of liability is causing confusion. Drug testing is also a source of ongoing confusion. It seems as though students don’t have to comply with facilities’ request for a drug test. UNMC is considering this policy. Jury duty is easy to get out of if you’re a full-time student. Just contact the Registrar and they will mail/fax over a request. The school will be requiring all faculty on campus to undergo sexual harassment training, but this will be initiated in the College of Graduate Studies first due to the number of complaints/reports from students in this college. Blackboard access to syllabi at the beginning of the school year is a concern among students who may or may not be considering dropping/withdrawling from classes. Students want more access earlier on to the syllabus and other pertinent course content. An IPE event is being planned for all second year students across the campus. Some ideas are to get groups of students and send them off campus to engage in an outreach activity together. For example, Bridge-To-Care is an option; it gets people exposed to community outreach in a way that may encourage them to commit longer term.

2. Policies: Our Student Senate, at the request of our new Chancellor Dr. Gold, has been asked to review policies and provide feedback to administration before they are signed off by the Chancellor. For example, Delinquent Fee policy was reviewed by our Senate Executive Committee (since this was a very short turn-around time). All of our suggestions were accepted and our questions/comments addressed. In the future, the Academic Affairs committee will likely be tasked with reviewing and responding to policy requests. Most recently, the Holds Policy was asked to undergo review/constructive critique by Senate. Our suggestions/comments/questions were submitted and received a positive response will all changes accepted. This is a huge opportunity for Students and our Student Senate to weigh in on policies that directly affect our student body. We should be grateful for this opportunity and use it as a mechanism to raise our concerns and opinions in a way that will benefit the entire student body.
9. Liaison Reports:
   a. IT
      i. In MSC 2018 (just 3 Doors Down) and 1005, there are conference call options for Senators to conference into our meetings if they are out of town and/or on away rotations. We will try to incorporate this into our meetings starting from September 2014.
   b. Legislative
      i. The last trip went very well. The session is almost over, April 17th is the last day. The Medicaid expansion attempt couldn't get past the filibuster. The UNMC Cancer Research Bill passed! The senators that are pushing the expansion are returning to the Legislature next year.
   c. LiveGreen
      i. On Friday April 25th 12-1:30pm there will be an event with a concert. There will be free food and ice cream. Although this is during finals/dead week on campus, Senators were in favor of holding this event on the green right outside of Sorrell and do not see a problem with noise during this lunch hour time.
      ii. Advertising suggestions were given for future LiveGreen events/announcements: UNMC Today, UNMC facebook, the magazine UNMC Connect. Sen. Marion also suggested LiveGreen update the television screens throughout the Sorrell Center as they already have an advertisement on the screens (but it has not been updated). Senators generally stated that they would not follow a UNMC LiveGreen Twitter feed.
   d. Security
      i. Signs for bike racks are still not up; Sen. Morales will follow-up with Gary Svanda about these signs and the timeline for setting the signs up.
      ii. University of Toledo has approximately 18 students who work 24/7 (basically on-call) and are responsive to student request for an “escort” within 20 minutes maximum. Students could get paid to study and then respond to requests accordingly. Senator Morales wasn’t sure if this is something that would work out our Graduate Student campus, however there is still consensus of a need to improve current response time on our campus for when Security is available to escort/drive students to their cars during the night hours.
   e. Student Health Services
      i. See discussion about Survey above.

10. Shelved Items:
    a. Constitution Review & Revision: Alicia and Brian
       i. Running joke of Senate; but we promise to continue working on our efforts to revise and update the constitution.

11. Proposals:
    a. Spring on the Green Event Proposal SSP03A14
       i. Sen. Coburn noted that this is 17% of the budget with 16% of the student population approximated to attend. And $5.22 per person coincides with Fund B fee that we collect from the students.
       ii. Sen. Marion: there is concern that 600 is a steep number.
       iii. The general discussion is that people come for the food and that the fall event had a movie but it didn’t seem to affect attendance. The cold weather in the fall may have deterred students from attending.
iv. Sen. Price: Would overshooting the number of anticipated attendance ruin/affect our relationship with Sodexo? Concern regarding future events and their leniency in not charging for unused meals/food. It was decided to decrease the number of anticipated students during the week of the event based on weather.

v. There was some concern about the short time-line before this event. Senator Marion ensured Senate that they have ambitious plans for advertising the event. They will also advertise the Hustle for Hunger event that will end at 5pm on the same day (at the same location of our event). And the Hippocratic Hustle is also later that night, but should not interfere with our attendance as it starts after 7:30pm.

vi. Motion to vote, 2nd: 96% for and 4% against

vii. Motion PASSED

b. Salsa Night Proposal SSP04A14
   i. Sen. Morales: How many people are allowed per fire code?
   ii. Sen. Miralami: Is there a concern with it being Thursday?
      1. Sen. Marion: It is intended to be a social outlet for students later in the week without interfering with anyone’s weekend (Friday/Saturday night) plans.
   iii. Sen. Shaw: Have we done anything like this?
      1. Sen. Dahlquist: It was done in the fall with SAGH. Attendance was at approximately 20 students.
   iv. Motion to vote, 2nd: 82% for and 18% against
   v. Motion PASSED

12. Next Meeting:
   a. April 2014 Committee Meeting: Wednesday April 16th 5:30pm (Sorrell 2010)

13. Adjournment