

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Educational Policy

Date of Meeting: December 6, 2005

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.1 Student Rights and Responsibilities (Second Reading)

- Proposed Policy Action Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring
- Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

This item is a second reading policy document.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs (Mike López)

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The proposed policy adds clarifying language and deletes unnecessary language. Two new sections are proposed: one (Part 6) that assures that information on student expectations, rights and responsibilities is readily accessible to students, and one (Part 11) that refers students to Policy 2.3 and Procedure 2.3.1, Student Involvement in Decision Making. Part 10 is deleted because it is addressed in the proposed Student Conduct Procedure (3.6.1).

Background Information:

Policy 3.1 was developed prior to merger with no subsequent amendments. Policy 1A.1, Part 6, Subpart H. Periodic Review requires that policies be reviewed at least once every three years. This policy was revised by a Student Conduct Policy Task Force during the past winter. The proposed revision was sent out for review and comment on September 2, 2005 and October 27, 2005. Comments were reviewed and considered for inclusion in the proposed policy draft.

Second Reading

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
*ACTION ITEM***

Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.1 Student Rights and Responsibilities

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2
3 The Office of the Chancellor is submitting an amendment to Policy 3.1 Student Rights and
4 Responsibilities.

5
6 **BACKGROUND**

7
8 This policy was developed prior to merger with no subsequent amendments. The proposed policy adds
9 clarifying language and deletes unnecessary language. Two new sections are proposed: one (Part 6) that
10 assures that information on student expectations, rights and responsibilities is “readily accessible to
11 students,” and one (Part 11) that refers students to Policy 2.3 and Procedure 2.3.1, Student Involvement in
12 Decision Making. Part 10 is deleted because it is addressed in the proposed Student Conduct Procedure
13 (3.6.1).

14
15 **CONSULTATION**

16
17 Consultation has occurred as follows:

- 18 • System-wide cross functional Student Conduct Policy Task Force met in winter, 2005
- 19 • Reviewed policy amendment with chief student affairs officers at their meeting in May, 2005.
- 20 • Review and comment requested on the proposed procedure action from faculty, students,
21 administrators, staff, statewide student associations, statewide faculty associations and other
22 employee association groups through this system-wide constituent mailing, dated 9/2/05;
23 10/27/05.
- 24 • Reviewed extensively with student associations’ leadership.
- 25 • Reviewed with the Academic and Student Affairs Policy Council - 9/13/05; 11/15/05.
- 26 • Reviewed at MSCF Meet and Confer - 9/15/05.
- 27 • Reviewed at IFO Meet and Confer - 9/30/05; 11/18/05.
- 28 • Reviewed with Leadership Council - 10/11/05; Planned for review on 12/5/05.
- 29 • Review at MSUAASF Meet and Confer - 10/7/05.

30
31 **RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

32
33 The Educational Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

34
35 **RECOMMENDED MOTION**

36
37 The Board of Trustees approves the proposed amendment to Policy 3.1 Student Rights and
38 Responsibilities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

BOARD POLICY
Chapter 3. EDUCATIONAL POLICIES
Section 1. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1 **3.1 Student Rights & Responsibilities**

2
3 **Part 1. Freedom to Learn.** In addition to the basic constitutional rights enjoyed by all citizens, students in
4 colleges and universities have specific rights related to academic freedom and their status as students. Freedom
5 to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The freedom to learn depends upon
6 appropriate opportunities and conditions in the classroom, on the campus, and in the larger community.
7 Students are expected to exercise their freedom with responsibility.

8
9 **Part 2. Freedom of Expression.** Individual students and student organizations shall be free to examine and
10 to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately. They shall be free to
11 support causes by orderly means that do not substantially disrupt the regular and essential operation of the
12 institution. ~~In the classroom,~~ Students shall be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in
13 any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the
14 content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.

15
16 **Part 3. Freedom of Association.** Students shall be free to organize and join organizations to promote their
17 common and lawful interests, subject to institutional policies or regulations. Registration or recognition may be
18 withheld or withdrawn from organizations that violate institutional regulations.

19
20 **Part 4. Student-Sponsored Forums.** Students shall have the right to assemble, to select speakers, and to
21 discuss issues of their choice. The college or university shall establish reasonable time, place and manner
22 restrictions to assure that the assembly does not substantially disrupt the work of the institution or does not
23 interfere with the opportunity of other students to obtain an education or otherwise infringe upon the rights of
24 others. Such regulations shall not be used as a means of censorship. The president or designee may prohibit
25 any forum ~~when holding the event, in his or her judgment, would result in physical harm or threat of physical~~
26 ~~harm to persons or property when there is a likelihood of harm to individuals or damage to property if the~~
27 event is held. Prior to any such prohibition, the president shall ~~make his or her best effort to~~ consult with a
28 ~~designated member~~ of the student association.

29
30 **Part 5. Student Publications.** Student-funded publications shall be free of censorship and advance approval
31 of copy, and their editors and managers shall be free to develop their own editorial and news coverage policies.
32 Editors and managers of student publications shall be protected from arbitrary suspension and removal because
33 of student, faculty, administrative, or public disapproval of editorial policy or content. The student fee
34 allocation process shall not be used as a means of editorial control of student-funded publications. All student
35 publications shall explicitly state on the editorial page that the opinions there expressed are not necessarily
36 those of the college, university, system, or student body.

37
38 **Part 6. Student Policies.** The policies of the college or university regarding student expectations, rights and
39 responsibilities shall be readily accessible to students.

1 **Part 6 7. Catalog and Course Information.** To the extent possible, students ~~will~~ shall be provided relevant
2 and accurate information regarding courses prior to enrollment. Catalog descriptions and website postings ~~will~~
3 shall be accurate and based on information existing at the time of publication. To the extent possible, class
4 schedules ~~will~~ shall list the names of faculty teaching courses.
5

6 **Part 7 8. Student Academic Standing Information.** Students shall have access to accurate information
7 ~~about general requirements~~ for establishing and maintaining acceptable academic standing, information which
8 will enable students to determine their individual academic standing, and information regarding graduation
9 requirements.
10

11 **Part 8 9. Academic Evaluation.** Student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on the basis of
12 academic standards, including any requirements that are noted in the catalog, course syllabus, or student
13 handbook. Students shall have protection against prejudiced or capricious evaluation and shall not be evaluated
14 on the basis of opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students shall have the right to
15 review their corrected examinations or other required assignments used by the faculty in evaluating the
16 student's academic performance.
17

18 **Part 9 10. Property Rights.** Term papers, essays, projects, works of art, and similar property including
19 property in which the student has intellectual property rights pursuant to Board Policy 3.26 shall be returned to
20 a student upon request, within a reasonable timeframe, when no longer needed for evaluation purposes, unless
21 the student grants written permission for them to be retained.
22

23 ~~**Part 10. Off-Campus Conduct.** Students who violate a local ordinance or state law risk the legal penalties~~
24 ~~prescribed by civil authorities. A college or university need not concern itself with every violation.~~
25 ~~Nevertheless, a college or university may take disciplinary action against students for off-campus behavior,~~
26 ~~following the procedures of the code of conduct of that college or university.~~
27

28 **Part 11. Student Review and Consultation.** Students shall have the right to appropriate levels of
29 participation in college and university decision-making pursuant to Policy 2.3 and Procedure 2.3.1, Student
30 Involvement in Decision-Making.

Date of Implementation: 1/18/95

Date of Adoption: 1/18/95

Date & Subject of Revisions: