

**U OF M, CROOKSTON ADMINISTRATIVE CABINET**  
**Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2009**  
**Minnesota Room, Sargeant Student Center, 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Chuck Casey, Les Johnson, Peter Phaiah, Tricia Sanders, Andrew Svec  
 Guests: Gary Willhite, Tim Norton      Absent: Tom Baldwin

- I. Guests Gary Willhite and Tim Norton were invited to take part in a discussion of Brink Hall. There are serious issues involving water seepage from the roof (5 different independent roof sections on the building) and resulting structural damage, wood rot, and mold issues. These issues were brought to light recently with the repair of the roof in one area of the building.

Some discussion had taken place about possibly keeping Brink online after the construction of the new apt complex nearby is complete, even though the original plan was to demolish Brink this summer. It was moved and seconded to move ahead with demolition of Brink as planned for this summer 2009.

Discussion: One of the reasons to possibly keep Brink viable would be to help accommodate a possible influx of Chinese students that may arrive in the summer of 2010.

This reason is eclipsed by other compelling reasons to demolish Brink as planned this summer:

- a) Structural and mold issues are more serious than previously thought.
- b) Approximately \$150K-200K would need to be spent to meet code issues, reroof and replace and paint interior sheetrock.
- c) Delay in demolition would add to cost of demolition.
- d) There is a good chance the building would sit empty for the 2009-2010 academic year.
- e) There are other options that could meet the housing demand expected in 2010 including more downtown apartments at the site of the old middle school, acquisition of new properties south of campus, options with Mt. St. Benedict, options with Golf Terrace Hotel, options with Goldmark Properties.
- f) Drainage is also an issue in the area of the Brink site.

With motion, second and discussion completed, the motion passed unanimously. Tim will work to compile info on a better estimate for cost of demolition, with possible cost savings by using Facilities and Operations staff where appropriate and with proper safety. Tim then left.

- II. Gary and Peter brought forward discussion on room rates for the 2009-2010 academic year. Students will be signing up starting April 20. Proposed rates are McCall \$1430 (a 4.5% increase over last year); Skyberg \$1472 (a 4.8% increase); Centennial \$1674 (5.9% increase); new apt. complex \$1774. It was moved and seconded to approve these rates. Discussion: The newer halls are at a higher rate. Max capacity will be at 563 beds. Motion carried.
- III. Meal plan rates were scheduled to be discussed, but decision of demolition of Brink requires Peter to recalculate proposed prices and options and Peter needs to meet with the Res Hall Assoc. tonight. Group will meet sometime Wednesday, April 8, to finalize/approve,

- IV. Beautiful U Day will be held Friday, April 24, to coincide with visit by VP O'Brien and Amy Short, sustainability coordinator for UMTC. Christo Robberts is working with Peter to develop some campus beautification efforts for that morning. Chuck is working with Dan Svedarsky and Sustainability Committee on the schedule for VP O'Brien's visit.
- V. President Bruininks' annual visit has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 16. A proposed schedule is similar to that original proposed for March 27. The day's itinerary includes meetings with campus students, faculty, staff, department heads, administrators, and regional media. An open forum for faculty and staff is scheduled for 9 a.m. in Bede Ballroom, and a forum for students will follow at 10 a.m. in the Northern Lights Lounge, Sargeant Student Center. President Bruininks will also address Campus Assembly at the 12:30 p.m. meeting in Bede Ballroom. VP Robert Jones will also accompany the president on the visit.
- VI. Chuck brought up retreat planning for the June 2-3 administrative retreat. He asked the group to think about setting goals and objectives and mining the data need to inform what the group wants to accomplish. Bob Nelson has a wealth of data we can use including NSSE survey data on engagement, grad survey info. Andrew will have info from SimmonsFlint, a firm doing a communications audit and marketing assessment. Possible topics:

U of M Financial Future – how might UMC generate additional income from other sources such as new programs, additional e-education programs, development, energy savings.

Retention and mix of academic programs – does UMC have the right mix? What opportunities are there for new/expanded programs? What would be best choices, fill needs?

Sustainability/Multicultural/International

Goal is to come out of the retreat with some solid priorities and work with faculty focus groups during opening week to get input and ideas. More discussion is forthcoming.

The group discussed the importance of having a facilitator to help keep on task and focus the retreat. Possibly person would be Jody Horndvedt of U of M Extension, as she was helpful with the 2006 strategic planning and is familiar with the campus.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

--Respectfully submitted by Andrew Svec

**U OF M, CROOKSTON ADMINISTRATIVE CABINET**  
**Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2009**  
**Minnesota Room, Sargeant Student Center, 8:30 a.m.**

Present: Tom Baldwin, Chuck Casey, Peter Phaiah, Tricia Sanders, Andrew Svec

Absent: Les Johnson

- I. Meal plan rates were discussed. One concept is a “one price” plan where student pay one price for three different plans differentiated by the number of meals and the amount of “Eagle Bucks” or dollars to be used at the Eagles Nest. Peter discussed this and other concepts with the CSA last week. Another concept is to keep the meal plans as the currently are (3 plans with additional commuter block plan) with a 5.2% increase. Students have asked for a fourth meal plan option, something like 5 meals/week +300 in Eagle Bucks. The cost of this plan is extremely expensive per meal and does not offer students good value per meal. Costs are direct result of the rates charged by Sodexo. Discussion centered on the high cost not being a good value for students. Group will meet sometime Wednesday to finalize/approve, since Peter needs to meet with the Res Hall Assoc. tonight.

It was moved and seconded to adopt plan of keeping the current 3 plans and commuter block with a 5.2% increase for an additional year. Discussion: rationale is twofold: the other options are not great values for students and this is only the first year with Sodexo as provider. A second year will give better data to make decision of adding a fourth option for students. It was also mentioned that Sodexo should strive to offer best value and variety. Peter mentioned there are plans to have cooks attend training on preparing greater variety of ethnic foods. Motion carried.

- II. Peter brought discussion of making meal plan mandatory of entering international students.

He moved that all new entering international students are required to take part in a meal plan during their first semester while living in UMC’s campus residence halls. After the first semester only those international students with less than 24 credit hours (freshman status) would be required to have a meal plan. The freshmen meal plan requirement would continue to apply to these students after the first semester. This policy would not apply to international student who have transferred in from another U.S. institution of higher education. Non-freshmen Canadian students are excluded from this policy. Motion was seconded.

Discussion: rationale is to allow international student a transition to experience the food of this culture and to engage and social with others in the dining hall. Also, this would parallel the required meal plan for freshmen in campus housing. Kim Gillette, director of international programs does support this proposal. One drawback is the tracking system for these students and the cumbersome nature of dealing with it using PeopleSoft. This requires significant tracking and coordination of a number of people and some hand tabulation. Still, it does bring a level of parity and consistency to mandatory meal policy. Motion carried.

- III. President Bruininks' April 16 visit schedule was further refined. Barbara Ricord will send it out to the Exec. Committee.
- IV. Chuck continues to work with Dan Svedarsky on the schedule for VP O'Brien's visit April 24. They are getting close to finalizing it.
- V. Andrew reported the naming committee for the new residence hall met and students are going to weigh in on some possible names at the April 9 CSA meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

--Respectfully submitted by Andrew Svec