

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

October 14, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: October 27, 2010 *Dialogue of the Day*, Defer Spring Forum Discussion, Third Thursdays, Defer Dr. Friedman Meeting Time Discussion, Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Discussion about Agenda Items for AHC FCC for 2010 – 2011 Academic Year]

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Present: Colin Campbell, (chair), Stephen Downing, Cynthia Gross, George Maldonado, Ned Patterson

Regrets: Susan Berry, Paul Olin, Cheryl Robertson

Others attending: Vernon Weckwerth

I). Professor Campbell called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

II). Members unanimously approved the September 13, 2010 AHC FCC minutes.

III). Professor Campbell reminded members about the committee's October 27, 2010 meeting with Dr. Cerra. He then turned to Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, to find out if Dr. Aaron Friedman, will also attend this meeting. Ms. Dempsey reported that Dr. Friedman plans to attend the October 27, November 17, and December 15 AHC FCC meetings with Dr. Cerra.

At the September 22 meeting with Dr. Cerra, the committee planned to cover two topics, noted Professor Campbell:

- The appendix to the overarching University-wide Individual Conflicts of Interest policy, Individual Conflicts of Interest: Clinical Health Care - Patient Contact in the Academic Health Center.
- Implications of the new AHC structure both within and outside of the AHC.

In light of time, the committee never got around to discussing the new AHC structure. Having said that, do members want to have the new AHC structure as the *Dialogue of the Day* for the October 27 meeting? Members agreed that they would like to talk to Dr. Cerra and Dr. Friedman about the new structure. The committee went on to spend a few minutes talking about the new structure.

To facilitate the October 27 discussion with Dr. Cerra and Dr. Friedman, noted Professor Downing, it would be extraordinarily helpful to get a copy of the current AHC

organizational structure and a copy the new structure. Ms. Dempsey volunteered to get this information for members prior to the meeting.

Professor Gross stated that she would be out of town for the October 27 AHC FCC meeting, and asked whether she should send someone else from the College of Pharmacy in her stead. Professor Campbell encouraged Professor Gross to send someone in her place if she is able to find someone.

IV). Professor Campbell deferred the discussion about the spring forum given that several members were not able to attend today's meeting. He noted that he would start the spring forum discussion via email.

V). Professor Campbell reminded members that the first Third Thursday of the 2010 – 2011 academic year will be on October 21 from 4:30 – 6:00 in the Campus Club. In response to a question about the topic and format for this gathering, Professor Weckwerth stated that he will serve as the School of Public Health host and has arranged for James Neaton, a professor from the Division of Biostatistics, to provide information about his international HIV field trials and the data analyses of these trials. In terms of the format, these gatherings are quite informal and presenters usually only speak for 10 minutes or so.

VI). Professor Campbell also deferred the discussion about spring meeting dates with Dr. Friedman because Professor Berry was not in attendance. Professor Berry has clinic responsibilities on Wednesday mornings, which make it very difficult if not impossible for her to attend the meetings with Dr. Cerra. This business will also be conducted over email, noted Professor Campbell.

VII). Professor Campbell recapped the committee's informal discussion about the AHC FCC's role in the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award, which took place prior to convening the meeting. He reported that there is a tremendous amount of confusion among members about what constitutes the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Professor Gross stated that in light of the new AHC structure she is wondering whether there will be any changes in how awards are handled. For example, will the awards be given out more broadly? She stated that it is good to have teaching awards and recognition events, but that she is disappointed when everyone who is nominated gets the award, which was the case last spring with the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Professor Campbell clarified that the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award was never intended to be a teaching award. The people who receive this award are doing more than just being good teachers.

Professor Gross suggested inviting the individuals who created this award to find out what they had in mind when they created it. Professor Weckwerth added that the committee needs to be clear about the criteria for assessing this award.

Professor Campbell noted that last year the committee received a complaint concerning the eligibility process for nominating an individual to the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Apparently, a nominator had been discouraged from submitting a dossier for consideration within one of the AHC schools/colleges. This incident begs the question of whether more nominations would have been received had nominators not been discouraged from submitting nominations. While technically the AHC serves as the screening committee for this award, the fact that someone else is screening the nominations before the AHC FCC has an opportunity to do so is disturbing. If this is the case, why should the AHC FCC screen the nominations at all if someone else is already doing it?

Professor Gross asked why there is confusion over the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award but not the Academy for Excellence in Health Research award given the similarities in how these awards are handled. Professor Campbell explained that members of the Academy for Excellence in Health Research have agreed to take on the responsibility of serving as the screening committee, and, as a result, they are now self-sustaining. The goal, he added, was to get the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning to reach this point as well. To be fair, noted Professor Weckwerth, the emphasis and clarity on research at the University of Minnesota is much more clear than an understanding of what constitutes the scholarship of teaching and learning. Each of the schools puts different weights on teaching and uses different terms and definitions. The Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award is not that pure, and herein is the ambiguity.

Professor Gross proposed either inviting the founders of this award to share their vision or bring this issue to closure. Professor Campbell stated that some time ago it was the consensus of the committee that the AHC FCC would no longer serve as the screening committee. After a brief discussion, members agreed that this item would be placed on the November 11 agenda with Professor Olin's name attached to it because he has a fairly strong opinion about this matter and is not in attendance at today's meeting.

VIII). Professor Campbell asked members for their thoughts about what issues they would like the committee to take up this year. The committee will continue to get reports from Professor Berry about the work of the AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinical Faculty. In addition, noted Professor Campbell, he believes that the Individual Conflicts of Interest: Clinical Health Care – Patient Contact in the Academic Health Center (policy appendix) will continue to be an issue. There are a significant number of AHC faculty who do not believe they are engaged in high-risk activities, and feel they are being singled out by this policy. Professor Campbell anticipates the Conflicts of Interest policy will be an ongoing topic of discussion for the committee.

Given the senior leadership transitions that are taking place within the institution, Professor Gross posed the question about the AHC FCC's role when it comes to meeting with either search committees members and/or finalists. After some discussion about the fact that the new president will make the final hiring decision about the vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School, the committee agreed to send a letter to the new president once that person is in place letting him/her know that the AHC FCC is available to meet with the finalists for the vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School position. The committee needs to make its presence known to the new administration early on.

On a related note, Professor Weckwerth also suggested the committee discuss expanding its membership in light of the new expanded structure, the Academic Health Sciences (AHS) versus the Academic Health Center (AHC).

Ms. Dempsey noted that Provost Sullivan has been scheduled to meet with the AHC FCC at its January 13, 2011 meeting. Members voiced a strong interest in meeting with him.

Professor Campbell suggested that the committee may want to take up the 'erosion' of the UMD Medical School faculty due to attrition, etc. Professor Downing acknowledged that there is a lot of concern among Duluth Medical School faculty in terms of what has been allowed to happen to the number of faculty. There are also concerns about whether there will be a push to have more ITV courses, and whether the Medical School in Duluth will continue to teach areas of expertise in its curriculum if it no longer has faculty with the expertise. Professor Campbell stated that he believes the AHC FCC has a responsibility to point out to the administration what it sees as a potential problem. He asked Professor Downing if he would be willing to discuss with his colleagues the concerns of UMD Medical School faculty, and outline their issues.

Professor Gross asked whether there are any issues within the Duluth Medical School that could have an impact on its accreditation. Professor Downing stated that at this moment he does not know of any, but expects it to become more clear over the next 3 – 6 months. He added that faculty are very concerned about the long-term plans for the Duluth Medical School. Professor Downing and Professor Campbell agreed to continue this discussion off-line.

Professor Weckwerth suggested the committee look at the shift in teaching away from tenured/tenure-track faculty to non-tenured/non-tenured track faculty. Professor Campbell asked Professor Weckwerth to try and get this data, and if he runs into any problems, the committee will formally ask for it from the administration.

Professor Campbell stated that he would follow-up with an email to members to solicit additional agenda items for the year.

IX). Hearing no further business, Professor Campbell adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey

University Senate