

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

March 10, 2011

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Third Thursdays, Update to FCC, Provostal Search Committee Announcement, Letter to Drs. Friedman and Mulcahy regarding Membership on the Executive Steering Group Sub-Teams, *Dialogue of the Day*, Academies for Excellence Update]

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), Cynthia Gross, George Maldonado, Paul Olin, Ned Patterson

Regrets: Susan Berry, Stephen Downing, Cheryl Robertson

Others attending: Merrie Kaas for Cheryl Robertson and Vernon Weckwerth

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

II). The committee spent a few minutes discussing Third Thursdays. The March Third Thursday will be hosted by the School of Nursing. For the benefit of Professor Kaas from the School of Nursing who was stepping in for Professor Robertson who was unexpectedly called out of the country, Professor Campbell explained that the Third Thursday gatherings are very informal and an opportunity for faculty in the AHC schools to get together and interact. He noted that a brief faculty presentation takes place at about 5:00 p.m. generally showcasing an area of research or a program in the hosting school. Third Thursdays are held in the Campus Club from 4:30 – 6:30.

III). Professor Campbell stated that he provided the University FCC with a report on what the AHC FCC has been working on this year. An outcome of this update was that the FCC wrote a letter to Drs. Friedman and Mulcahy, co-chairs, Executive Steering Group, urging them to meet with the AHC FCC to solicit the committee's thoughts prior to issuing a final report/recommendations.

IV). As a point of information, Professor Campbell mentioned the Star Tribune article in today's paper about the two University of Minnesota professors who were indicted in Georgia for conspiring to draw salaries from two schools at once. Members spent a few minutes discussing the article.

V). Members unanimously approved the amended/corrected February 3, 2011 and February 10, 2011 minutes.

VI). Professor Campbell urged members who are either interested in serving on the provostal search committee or who may know of someone who is interested, to email him. The FCC has been asked to come up with a list of names for consideration. In Professor Campbell's opinion, it would be nice to have some new blood on committees that are being formed in an effort to get different perspectives heard.

VII). Professor Campbell reported not yet receiving a response to the letter the AHC FCC recently sent to Drs. Friedman and Mulcahy requesting that the membership of the Executive Steering Group's sub-teams include a minimum of one non-administrative faculty member per sub-team. He promised to share any response he receives with the committee.

VIII). Members went on to talk about governance in general. An outcome of this discussion was a suggestion by Professor Gross that the *Dialogue of the Day* topic for the April 7 meeting with Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan should be to hear from them about their thoughts on how the AHC FCC could provide more meaningful and timely input in an effort to be more effective. Professor Campbell stated that he liked this suggestion, but noted that it will be important that the conversation stay focused specifically on the AHC governance committees and not non-AHC Senate committees.

To facilitate this discussion, Professor Olin suggested that Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan be given copies of the committee's charge. Professor Campbell thought this was a good suggestion as well and liked Professor Gross' positive approach to asking Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan for their thoughts on how the committee can be more effective when it comes to providing more meaningful input.

Professor Gross further suggested that the AHC FCC may also want to take on a more public relations role. However, in order for members of the AHC FCC to support the administration's decisions, the process needs to be transparent and honest. A lack of honesty only serves to make it impossible for faculty to support administrative decisions that are made. The committee cannot be effective if it is given misinformation. Professor Campbell used the administration's AHC restructuring decision as an example of a decision that has gotten virtually no support from AHC faculty.

Professor Gross stated that in order for the AHC FCC to be effective its charge also needs to be accurate and suitable. With that said, Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, stated that the committee has the authority to revise its charge at any time. Professor Gross requested Ms. Dempsey circulate the AHC Constitution and AHC FCC charge to members so they can review it.

Professor Olin stated that with a new administration coming in, the AHC FCC is in a good position to respectfully set a different tone. The AHC FCC needs to feel comfortable in exercising its charge.

In the AHC FCC the charge, noted Professor Gross, the committee has been delegated the responsibility of advising the Vice President for Health Sciences on procedures for

making administrative appointments and participating in selection processes. She believes this fact puts the committee on solid footing when it comes to requesting that the membership of the Executive Steering Group sub-teams include at least one non-administrative faculty member.

Professor Campbell stated that the current AHC FCC charge will be sent to Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan with the message that the committee plans to revise its charge in part because the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences title is no longer accurate and also because the committee feels it is the right time to revisit its charge to accurately reflect what the committee is doing and should be doing. The AHC FCC will consult with Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan at the April 7 meeting to get their thoughts on the charge, particularly in light of the restructuring of the AHC. Ms. Dempsey also suggested the committee look at its membership given the fact that the representation at the AHC dean's meetings has been expanded to include deans from CLA, CBS and CFANS. Professor Campbell stated he will work with Ms. Dempsey on the wording for the April 7 *Dialogue of the Day* and circulate it to members for their approval. Professor Gross suggested simply stating that the committee is in the process of reviewing its charge and the AHC constitution with an eye to identifying aspects that need to be revised, and the committee welcomes input from Dr. Friedman and Provost Sullivan. She also suggested that when sending the charge to Dr. Friedman that it would be appropriate to highlight the portion that validates the AHC FCC's recent request that at least one non-administrative faculty member be appointed to each of the Executive Steering Group sub-teams.

Regarding the composition of the Executive Steering Group and its sub-teams, Professor Gross stated that when her unit puts together a search committee it is very much like following a recipe. She believes that the administration should consider using a similar approach when constituting its committees so groups are not overlooked.

IX). Professor Campbell announced that the deadline for the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning and the Academy for Excellence in Health Research are both on April 29, 2011.

In response to a question about the committee's involvement in the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Professor Campbell stated that effective spring 2011 the AHC FCC will no longer serve as the screening committee for nominations for this Academy.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate