

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

April 14, 2011

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: *Dialogue of the Day*, April 21, 2011 Third Thursday, AHC Review E-Mail, Academies for Excellence, AHC Task Force on Clinical Faculty Update, Update on 2011 – 2012 AHC FCC Chair Election]

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: Susan Berry (chair pro tem), Cynthia Gross, Ned Patterson, Cheryl Robertson

Regrets: Colin Campbell, Stephen Downing, George Maldonado, Paul Olin

Others attending: Vernon Weckwerth

I). Professor Berry, chair pro tem, welcomed all those present. Members spent the first portion of the meeting discussing the *Dialogue of the Day* for the upcoming meeting with Dr. Friedman on May 5. Members had previously agreed that in light of the recent changes in the AHC reporting structure that it would be a good time to discuss the committee's charge with Dr. Friedman. To facilitate today's discussion and to frame the discussion for the May 5 meeting with Dr. Friedman, members reviewed the AHC FCC charge. Professor Berry noted that the committee was created, in part, out of a desire to give AHC faculty a venue for discussing issues of specific relevance to the health science schools.

With the arrival of more members, Professor Berry stated that this discussion would be continued later in the meeting.

II). Members unanimously approved the March 10, 2011 minutes.

III). Professor Berry reminded members that the last Third Thursday of the 2010 – 2011 academic year will be on April 21 from 4:30 – 6:30 in the Campus Club. The April gathering is being hosted by the Center for Clinical and Cognitive Neuropharmacology in the College of Pharmacy. Members were encouraged to attend.

IV). Professor Gross asked members whether they saw the AHC-wide email that went out earlier in the week from Drs. Friedman and Mulcahy with the subject line 'AHC Review Update.' She voiced concern that unless people read the entire message closely, they would never know their input was being solicited. The survey link that was included was buried towards the bottom of the message. She suggested that the AHC FCC send a message to the same recipients with the subject line 'Your Input Needed Now,' and direct their attention to the survey link, which should be at the top of the

message. Members agreed and asked Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, to arrange for the message to be sent.

V). Professor Berry announced that the 2011 Academies for Excellence deadline is April 29, 2011. She requested Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, inquire and report back on the number of nominations that were received.

VI). Professor Berry provided members with an update on the AHC Task Force on Clinical Faculty. She reported that she and Dr. Brandt presented the task force report to the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF&T). While overall AF&T was supportive and enthusiastic about the report's recommendations, the committee was adamantly opposed to the notion that clinical faculty should have a voice in the promotion of faculty. According to Professor Berry, AF&T members basically view clinical faculty as term faculty who should have no input whatsoever in promotion.

Members spent a few minutes talking about how promotion is handled in their respective schools. Professor Berry stated that the task force was hopeful that clinical faculty with profound clinical expertise be allowed to render a judgment/vote on the clinical aspect of promotion decisions. Professor Gross stated that she would support clinical track faculty being able to vote on the promotion of other clinical track faculty. Professor Berry stated that this may be a possibility at some point, but the notion that clinical track faculty have a vote on the promotion of tenure and tenure-track faculty will never be supported. The current policies, procedures and regulations that were established in 2007 for promotion and tenure do not allow clinical track faculty to vote on promotion decisions. AF&T has no interest in making such a change at this time.

Professor Berry added that there is uncertainty around where this report should go next. She and Dr. Brandt plan to meet again to discuss next steps for the report. As more information comes along, Professor Berry agreed to report back to the committee.

Professor Gross suggested the task force report clarify that clinical track faculty should be allowed to vote on the promotion of other clinical track faculty. In addition, she asked that the minutes reflect the AHC FCC's appreciation for all the work that went into the report by task force members. Professor Berry stated that she is hopeful that the task force's recommendations will be brought to fruition as a way of supporting the University's clinical scholars.

VII). Professor Berry stated that the committee will need to vote soon on the election of an AHC FCC chair for 2011 – 2012. The committee discussed asking Professor Campbell whether he would be willing to chair the committee for another year. Professor Berry volunteered to ask Professor Campbell whether he would be willing to consider chairing the AHC FCC for the 2011 – 2012 academic year.

VIII). Members went off the record and returned to the earlier discussion about the role of the committee as a duly constituted committee of the University Senate with a charge and constitution. At the conclusion of the discussion, members agreed that in light of the

AHC FCC's consultative role as outlined in its charge, the committee would use the May 5 meeting with Dr. Friedman to make sure that the AHC FCC and Dr. Friedman have a mutual understanding about the committee's role as the voice of the AHC faculty. Also, members discussed talking with Dr. Friedman about his preference for the format of the monthly meetings. For example, does Dr. Friedman want to continue the monthly lunch meetings or is there another format/venue he would prefer?

Other topics discussed included:

- There is a lack of understanding about the AHC FCC, the AHC Assembly and governance in general among many AHC faculty. What type of grassroots organizing efforts could the committee do to help mobilize the constituency it represents?
- The committee agreed to call an AHC Faculty Assembly meeting for fall 2011. Members agreed to ask Dr. Friedman to serve as master of ceremony and to invite President-Designate Kaler to be the guest speaker.
- The committee's charge needs to be revised in order to have it reflect what the committee actually does and to be congruent with the new AHC reporting structure.

Professor Berry thanked members for an engaging discussion. In light of time, Professor Berry adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate