

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

May 12, 2011

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Debrief from May 5 AHC FCC Meeting with Dr. Friedman, AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinic Faculty Update, Agenda Items for June 23 Meeting with Dr. Friedman, Election of 2011 – 2012 AHC FCC Chair, Academies for Excellence Update, Meeting Day/Time for 2011 - 2012]

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), Susan Berry, Stephen Downing, Cynthia Gross, Paul Olin, Ned Patterson

Regrets: Cheryl Robertson

Absent: George Maldonado

Others attending: Vernon Weckwerth

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

II). Members unanimously approved the April 14, 2011 minutes.

III). Members took a few minutes and debriefed from the May 5, 2011 meeting with Dr. Friedman. The sense of the committee was that it was a very candid and productive discussion and that there seemed to be a genuine willingness on the part of Dr. Friedman to develop a mutually beneficial working relationship with the committee.

IV). Next, Professor Berry provided the committee with an AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinic Faculty update. She began by noting that, like many other reports, there is no clear path for action for the advancement of the task force's report, which is problematic in itself.

Professor Berry went on to state that to her dismay the task force's recommendation that clinical/non-tenure track faculty be allowed to vote on the advancement of tenure/tenure-track faculty met with great resistance by the Academic Freedom and Tenure (AF&T) Committee. With that said, however, there was a great deal of enthusiasm on the part of AF&T for the other recommendations in the report. As a result, the task force is considering removing the recommendation that clinical/non-tenure track faculty be allowed to vote on the advancement of tenure/tenure-track faculty from the report and asked for members' opinions. Professor Berry added that, in her opinion, because the institution is not hiring as many tenured faculty members, she believes that it is more

important than ever that the task force's recommendations be adopted in an effort to make the institution a safer place for the clinical faculty that are being hired.

Professor Gross stated that because the clinical and tenured faculty in the College of Pharmacy have quite different clinical domains, she would not expect the College of Pharmacy to find it relevant or useful to have clinical/non-tenure track faculty voting on the advancement of tenure/tenure-track faculty. Professor Berry understood this, but proposed that there may be other ways to solicit the appropriate opinion of clinical scholars who have expertise in a given field. For example, having senior clinical scholars provide recommendations to tenured faculty about a candidate's suitability for promotion as it relates to the clinical scholar-like features. In Professor Berry's opinion, this would be a reasonable compromise, which Professor Gross also supported.

Members went on to talk about the idiosyncrasies of their respective schools as it relates to the recommendations coming out of the AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinic Faculty. Professor Gross stated that as discussions related to this topic and other topics impacting the AHC take place, it will be increasingly important that each school's voice be represented. If the AHC FCC intends to be a vibrant group, all the schools need to be represented at the table. Professor Gross encouraged Professor Campbell to contact any members who regularly are not attending and encourage them to do so. Members with on-going conflicts should step down if they regularly cannot attend.

The committee then spent time talking about AHC policies, and agreed it would be a worthwhile discussion to have with Dr. Friedman about the AHC policies and how they are implemented and enforced, e.g., the Individual Conflicts of Interest: Clinical Health Care – Patient Contact in the Academic Health Center - http://www.policy.umn.edu/Policies/Operations/Compliance/CONFLICTINTEREST_AP_PA.html. While the administration said that faculty did not comment on this policy during the comment period, several members were skeptical of this because they were personally aware of individuals and groups that commented. Professor Gross stated that she is not interested in re-fighting the COI policy, but rather is interested in talking about a prudent way to implement the policy. Professor Campbell wondered if there were faculty COI complaints/comments that were not addressed or if there really was an absence of comments. Of greater concern to Professor Gross is the lack of corresponding procedures for implementing the policy. Policies and procedures are two very different things.

Professor Berry stated that it is her understanding that only study specific activities where it influences risk to a patient need to be disclosed. Professor Olin stated that he believes there is a disconnect between the intent of the policy and how it is actually being implemented in practice. Professor Olin stated that he has a conference call this afternoon that Ms. Zentner will be a part of and agreed to ask her about it. He went on to suggest that Fairview simply issue a blanket statement indicating that many of the faculty have research and financial relations with various companies, and if a patient has a concern about any products that are being prescribed that he/she should ask their physician. Professor Campbell suggested talking with Dr. Friedman about this issue at

the June 23 meeting, and requested Ms. Dempsey contact Dr. Friedman to get his agenda items as well. Professor Berry agreed and said that if there is a misunderstanding among the faculty about the COI policy it needs to be clarified.

V). Members unanimously elected Colin Campbell to chair the AHC FCC for the 2011 – 2012 academic year.

VI). As follow-up from the April 14 AHC FCC meeting, Ms. Dempsey reported that eight nominations were received for the Academy for Excellence in Health Research and four nominations for the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Members were satisfied with the number of nominations that were received.

After some discussion, the committee agreed to ask Dr. Friedman at the June 23 meeting about his long-term commitment to maintaining the Academies of Excellence awards, the interdisciplinary seed grants and Third Thursdays.

VII). Lastly, Professor Campbell asked about members' preferences for meeting times for next year. Members discussed moving the meeting date to Fridays next year. Professor Campbell requested Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, send out an email to ask members about their availability to meet next year on Friday's rather than Thursdays.

VIII). Professor Weckwerth asked Professor Olin about the change of leadership in the School of Dentistry. Professor Olin explained that Dean Lloyd accepted a position at Ohio State University.

IX). Professor Campbell announced that the June 9 AHC FCC meeting with Dr. Friedman has been rescheduled for June 23 from 12:00 – 1:00.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate