

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

August 19, 2011
Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: AHC Finance & Planning, Third Thursdays, Committee Vacancies, Forum, Themes 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, Paul Olin

Regrets: Cynthia Gross, George Maldonado, Ned Patterson, Cheryl Robertson

Others attending: Vernon Weckwerth

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

II). Professor Olin stated that he informed Dr. Friedman about the AHC Finance and Planning (F&P) Committee and gave him a copy of its charge to review. Now that Dr. Friedman has had an opportunity to review the charge, Professor Olin stated that he would follow-up with him to find out whether he thinks there is value in retaining the AHC F&P, or whether the duties and responsibilities of the AHC F&P should be absorbed into the AHC FCC. Professor Olin stated that he would report back on this conversation at the next AHC FCC meeting. Professor Campbell suggested deferring any action on the status of the AHC F&P until after Professor Olin has had an opportunity to talk with Dr. Friedman and there are more members present.

III). Members unanimously approved the June 9th and 23rd meeting minutes and notes, respectively.

IV). Professor Campbell reported that Dr. Friedman is open to continuing the Third Thursday gatherings as long they are worthwhile. With that said, Professor Campbell proposed that the AHC FCC attempt to quantify the benefits of Third Thursdays. Anecdotally, noted Professor Campbell, if it were not for the fact that Professor Jakob Tolar, M.D., Ph.D., Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplant Center, presented at the February 2011 Third Thursday gathering that he and Dr. Tolar would have ever met, let alone be collaborating today.

After some discussion, members agreed that while the Third Thursday gatherings are extraordinarily valuable, it would be very difficult to quantify this value. Members remarked that they would be interested in finding out how much these gatherings cost. Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, volunteered to find out and report this information back to

the committee. Professor Olin stated that if Dr. Friedman is not interested in continuing this venue that the committee could look for another sponsor.

Simply put, stated Professor Campbell, increased faculty morale seems like an important reason for continuing these gatherings. Professor Berry suggested that rather than quantitatively demonstrating the impact of Third Thursdays to Dr. Friedman that the committee consider characterizing the impact of Third Thursdays and use Professor Campbell's personal experience as an example. She added that there are very few, if any, opportunities for AHC faculty to engage in a no strings attached social interaction across all the schools. Members agreed, and went on to note that the AHC FCC, however, could do a better job promoting Third Thursdays because there are still faculty who do not know what they are all about. Professor Berry stated that Third Thursdays would likely have more of a substantive impact if more people attended these gatherings. Finding ways to broaden the impact of Third Thursdays would be valuable. Professor Campbell stated that he would talk with Ms. Dempsey about this idea, and he would follow-up with members the outcome in an email.

Regarding the 2011 – 2012 Third Thursday hosting schedule, the committee agreed hosting dates would be assigned alphabetically. If need be, schools can switch with one another if they are unable to host on their assigned date. The 2011 – 2012 Third Thursday schedule is as follows:

School of Dentistry – October 20, 2011
Medical School – November 17, 2011
School of Nursing – January 19, 2012
College of Pharmacy – February 16, 2012
School of Public Health – March 8, 2012 (second Thursday of the month)
College of Veterinary Medicine – April 19, 2012

Ms. Dempsey reminded Professor Campbell that last year the Center for Health Equity expressed an interest in presenting at an upcoming Third Thursday gathering.

V). Professor Campbell noted that the committee has two vacancies, School of Public Health and UMD-Medical School. Ms. Dempsey stated that she has been in regular contact with each of the schools about the vacant seats on the AHC FCC. Regarding the UMD-Medical School vacancy, Professor Campbell suggested asking Dr. Friedman to nudge the UMD Medical School to make an appointment. Ms. Dempsey agreed to ask Dr. Friedman to make sure that UMD understands that the work of the AHC FCC is important and encourage them to appoint someone soon.

VI). Professor Campbell stated that he believes the committee has an obligation to try and host a forum during the 2011 – 2012 academic year. Having said this, he proposed asking Professor Gross to chair a subcommittee on the forum.

In response to a question, Ms. Dempsey noted that she has contacted the President's Office regarding scheduling President Kaler for the forum. Because the AHC Review

Report has not yet been issued, the President's Office was hesitant to schedule at this time. Ms. Dempsey reported being instructed by the President's Office to check back about scheduling after the report has been issued.

Professor Campbell asked those present if they were comfortable with him asking Professor Gross to chair a forum subcommittee, and they agreed. Ms. Dempsey stated that the Senate Office does a majority of the legwork when it comes to forum planning, and it is primarily the committee's/subcommittee's responsibility to come up with the content/topic. Professor Berry added that she would be happy to work with Professor Gross on the forum. Professor Campbell stated that he would ask Professor Gross and report back to the committee.

VII). Professor Campbell asked members for their ideas for themes that the committee can work on during the 2011 – 2012 academic year. He noted that since serving on the committee, the meetings have served as a great sounding board, however, in his opinion, a more formal structure/function needs to be developed to make the committee play a more vital role and contribute more to the actual running of the AHC. For example, the committee should develop some sort of mechanism to make sure that it does what is outlined in its charge.

VIII). Before adjourning, Professor Olin briefly shared the process that was used for appointing the new interim dean in the School of Dentistry. In his opinion, the process was flawed, and only served to reinforce why faculty are reluctant to get involved in such matters. Clearly, noted Professor Campbell, this is an example of a situation where the faculty thought they had a bigger role in deciding who would be the interim dean in the School of Dentistry than they actually did.

Professor Olin also reported from the August 16th Finance & Planning meeting that the State of Minnesota in special session increased the University's appropriation by \$25 million more than the worst case projection used for the provisional budget that was presented to the Board earlier this year. Because the Regents reserved the right to review and approve any changes in allocations greater than 1%, the Board must now consider how the \$25 million should be allocated. Currently, President Kaler and senior leaders are reviewing how to approach the \$25 million. According to Professor Olin, there is a possibility that some of the money will be earmarked for units that were disproportionately impacted by funding cuts coming out the Department of Health and Human Services, e.g., Medical Education, MERC); however, this remains to be seen.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate