

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

September 21, 2012

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Debrief from September 5 AHC FCC Meeting with Dr. Friedman, FCC Retreat Update, All-University M.S./Ph.D. Program in Toxicology, August 2012 Consumer Reports Article: *How Safe Is Your Hospital?*, 2012 – 2013 Third Thursdays, Collegiate Chairs Luncheon, Spring Forum, Medical School Requirement for Service on University/Faculty Senate]

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: Ned Patterson, (chair), Colin Campbell, John Connett, Les Drewes, Robert Kratzke, Kathleen Krichbaum, Sandra Myers

Regrets: Cynthia Gross

Others attending: Diane Schadewald, Vernon Weckwerth

I). Professor Patterson called the meeting to order, welcomed those present and called for introductions.

II). Professor Patterson requested Professor Campbell lead the debriefing discussion from the September 5 meeting with Dr. Friedman given he was unable to attend. Professor Campbell reported that Dr. Friedman agreed to periodically meet with the AHC FCC chair, similar to how President Kaler meets with the FCC chair. In response, Professor Patterson stated that, at least initially, he would try to meet with Dr. Friedman once each semester.

At that same meeting, noted Professor Campbell, the AHC FCC shared with Dr. Friedman their experience meeting with the AHC External Review Committee. He added that based on Dr. Friedman's comments, it appeared that his contact with the External Review Committee was limited.

When asked about the External Review Committee report, Dr. Friedman was under the assumption that the report had not yet been completed. Professor Patterson confirmed this and noted that Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, checked with the Office of the President earlier this week, and was informed that President Kaler had not yet received the report. He added that it is expected that the report will most likely be made public. Professor Patterson asked Ms. Dempsey to periodically check on the status of the report.

III). Professor Patterson noted that as the AHC FCC chair he serves as an ex-officio member of the FCC. With that said, he took a few minutes to update the committee on the topics that were discussed at the August FCC retreat.

Professor Patterson reported that a fair amount of time was spent on the University's biennial budget request. In Professor Patterson's opinion, the administration's budget request seems quite innovative, and targets building a case for state investment, reducing the tuition burden and strengthening the University's historic partnership with the State of Minnesota. To illustrate, a Minnesota Discovery, Research and Innovation Economy (MnDRIVE) funding program will be established to reform how the University funds higher education. Beginning in FY 2014, MnDRIVE will provide \$18 million for scientific research in four emerging fields:

1. Robotics, sensors and advanced manufacturing.
2. Global food supply.
3. Industry advancement and environment conservation.
4. Discoveries and treatments for brain conditions.

Regarding reducing the tuition burden, reported Professor Patterson, the administration has created a number of policy initiatives to help students and their families pay for college tuition, e.g., tax credits to act as a tuition discount for undergraduate students from middle-income families, tax credits to help keep the best and brightest graduates in Minnesota by offsetting their student loans, and tax relief for students who have earned scholarships in excess of tuition and fees. There are also plans for a loan forgiveness program, which will provide the University with \$1.5 million beginning in 2015 to forgive part of a student's loan if he/she becomes a health care professional in an underserved area of Minnesota.

Professor Patterson then went off the record and shared additional topics that were discussed at the retreat.

Professor Krichbaum noted that she had sent a couple questions to the FCC asking about:

1. The status of the School of Nursing's constitution and bylaws. A few of the School of Nursing bylaws were recently called into question because they supposedly never received provostal approval.
2. Dean/senior administrator reviews.

Professor Patterson informed Professor Krichbaum that the AHC FCC had spent some time discussing the status of the AHC collegiate constitutions last year as did the FCC. While he does not know about bylaw protocol, it is his understanding that the collegiate constitutions need to be approved by the president or his designee. Also, according to AHC legal counsel, it seems that none of the AHC constitutions have been formally approved. Given that this continues to be an issue, the FCC has created an ad hoc committee that is being chaired by Professor Russell Luepker, which will be looking into the status of the collegiate constitutions.

Regarding dean reviews, stated Professor Patterson, this too is an on-going topic of discussion for the FCC. He agreed to report back on this issue.

Professor Krichbaum stated that in her opinion, the collegiate bylaws and constitutions are a mechanism for allowing faculty to govern themselves, to decide how their school should be run, and to provide the dean with input.

IV). Next, Professor Patterson asked Professor Drewes to provide some background on the next agenda item, the dissolution of the All-University M.S./Ph.D. program in toxicology. Professor Drewes began by noting that the program was created approximately 20 or more years ago. Over the years, the program was only mildly successful in the sense of how it was supported.

Professor Drewes went on to note that with the changes to the Graduate School in recent years, there no longer exists a mechanism for fostering interdisciplinary or multi-disciplinary program collaborations. Under the new Graduate School structure, All-University programs need to have a “home” on more than one campus. With that said, UMD has been informed that either the Medical School or the AHC administration on the Twin Cities campus has decided to no longer support the toxicology program, and, therefore, the program is currently in the process of being dissolved by the Graduate School.

In Professor Drewes opinion, the decision to dissolve the toxicology program is very shortsighted. The State of Minnesota has always been proud of its environmental achievements and there are a number of potential opportunities that the University could tap into. In addition, noted Professor Drewes, President Kaler himself has voiced his interest in increasing the University’s partnerships with industry, and this is just one example of such an opportunity. The All-University M.S./Ph.D. program in toxicology had been producing graduates that industry has wanted to hire.

Professor Drewes added that at the same time the All-University M.S./Ph.D. program in toxicology is being dissolved, the School of Public Health (SPH) is exploring offering a toxicology program. The SPH program, however, would have a different emphasis and would not be an All-University program but a SPH program only.

UMD Medical School faculty, stated Professor Drewes, do not have a lot of opportunity for graduate appointments in Ph.D.-granting programs. This makes recruiting new faculty extremely challenging. The decision to dissolve the All-University M.S./Ph.D. program in toxicology is a huge disappointment to UMD and is detrimental for faculty development.

Members asked Professor Drewes a number of questions about the toxicology program that is being dissolved in order to gain a better understanding of the issue and to provide him with their feedback/suggestions. In Professor Drewes’ opinion, the University should continue to offer a toxicology program with two tracks, a SPH focused program and a clinical program that would produce certified toxicologists.

Professor Connett stated that it was his understanding that the creation of any new program required regental approval, and wondered whether dissolution of a program also required regental approval.

Professor Patterson suggested discussing this issue with Dr. Friedman and also requested Professor Connect to explore what he can find out about the toxicology program the SPH is creating. He also suggested inviting Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Education Henning Schroeder to an upcoming meeting to discuss the issue further. Professor Campbell liked the idea of inviting Dean Schroeder to a future meeting given the AHC FCC has been interested in graduate education in general for a year or more. He also suggested that Ms. Dempsey put out a call for questions from AHC FCC members for Dean Schroeder to help him prepare for the discussion.

Professor Connett asked Professor Drewes whether he had a sense if cost was a motivating factor for dissolving the toxicology program. According to Professor Drewes, it is his understanding that the toxicology program was self-supported, and, therefore, there would be no financial gain by eliminating the program.

Professor Drewes concurred that he liked the idea of having the committee meet with Dean Schroeder and that the overall topic of discussion should be graduate programs in the AHC. Professor Patterson encouraged members to send any questions they have to Ms. Dempsey who will organize them and send them on to Dean Schroeder.

V). Moving on, Professor Patterson reminded members that the FCC had asked the AHC FCC to look into the August 2012 Consumer Reports article, *How Safe Is Your Hospital?* (<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2012/08/how-safe-is-your-hospital/index.htm>) in which the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview hospital safety rating was quite low. He turned to Professor Kratzke, a clinician, to get his perspective on the article.

To begin, Professor Kratzke stated that patients at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview are well taken care of. He then highlighted the metrics used to calculate the ratings in the article:

1. Infections.
2. Readmissions.
3. Communication.
4. Scanning.

Professor Kratzke admitted that patient surveys have indicated that communication with patients is a perceived problem at University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. In an effort to address this problem, he noted that within the past year, Fairview has instituted a program whereby physicians and nursing staff go into a patient's room together to discuss a patient's case. Professor Kratzke also pointed out that it is important to remember that University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview takes care of a terribly sick population, which undoubtedly impacts readmissions and the other metrics.

Personally, Professor Kratzke stated that he does not feel at all combative or defensive about the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview's rating. He reiterated, however, that the one area that can easily be addressed that is not based on disease physiology is communication.

Professor Kratzke went on to say that the rating system used in the article is somewhat arbitrary, much like a number of other rating systems. Infections and readmissions are somewhat hard to address given the patient population the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview deals with. Professor Krichbaum added that another thing to keep in mind is that big systems are complex, and so it is not necessarily surprising that the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview's rating is lower than a number of other hospitals.

Professor Campbell stated that it would be helpful if Professor Kratzke could either go with Professor Patterson to the FCC meeting when this topic will be discussed, or at least write up some talking points for Professor Patterson. He added that it will be important to point out that the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview is aware that patients perceive communication as a problem, and that prior to this article being published that University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview implemented a program to deal with this concern. Professor Kratzke stated that he would either attend the FCC meeting when this topic is discussed or, if he is unavailable, he would definitely pull together some talking points for Professor Patterson to refer to when updating the FCC. Professor Patterson stated that he would relay today's discussion to the FCC and let them know that this will also be a topic of discussion with Dr. Friedman at the October 29 meeting.

VI). Professor Patterson asked Ms. Dempsey to provide an update on the 2012 – 2013 Third Thursday schedule. Ms. Dempsey reported that the School of Public Health has volunteered to host the November 15 Third Thursday, but a host is still needed for the October 18th Third Thursday as well as for all the spring dates. She added that following the August 17 meeting, she sent out information on the 2010 – 2011 and 2011 - 2012 Third Thursday presenters and topics as had been requested.

Ms. Dempsey stated that she would email the committee with the list of 2012 – 2013 Third Thursday dates, and request that members volunteer their school to host a date. Regarding the October 18 Third Thursday, she also suggested that the committee may want to think about inviting Dr. Barbara Brandt to provide information about the University of Minnesota being selected as the National Center for Coordinating Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice - <http://www.health.umn.edu/healthtalk/2012/09/18/u-of-m-becomes-nations-sole-coordinating-center-for-interprofessional-education-and-collaborative-practice/> and <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/pressreleases/120914interprofessional.html>. Members liked this idea, and Ms. Dempsey stated that she would extend the invitation to Dr. Brandt. Professor Patterson stated that if Dr. Brandt is unavailable to present on October 18 that he would likely be able to find someone from the College of Veterinary Medicine to present.

VII). Professor Patterson went on to the next agenda item, and asked members if the AHC FCC should host a fall and/or spring AHC FCC/Collegiate Chair's Luncheon like has been done the over the past few years. After some discussion, the committee decided to host a January luncheon. Professor Patterson stated that he will start by looking at his schedule and identifying 2 – 3 dates and then members and collegiate chairs would be polled to find out their availability.

VIII). As follow-up from the August meeting, Professor Patterson reminded members that the committee had talked about hosting a spring forum. The general topic that was mentioned but not refined/finalized had to do with gender and salary equity and promoting an inclusive campus climate. Professor Patterson reported that he still has not been able to connect with Professor Gross to solicit her views on this topic.

Professor Patterson asked for volunteers to serve on a forum subcommittee. He stated that naturally as chair he would also be involved. Ms. Dempsey stated that she would handle all the logistics of the forum, but that faculty subcommittee volunteers are needed to decide upon a topic, keynote speaker, etc. Hearing no volunteers, Professor Campbell suggested that Ms. Dempsey send out an email asking for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. Professor Patterson stated that he would also continue to try and connect with Professor Gross.

IX). Other business: Professor Weckwerth asked about the Medical School FAC's decision to require that at least two-thirds of faculty senators who serve on the University/Faculty Senate be tenure or tenure-track. Professor Patterson stated that the FCC is discussing this issue. Professor Campbell stated that he was initially opposed to the decision, but then after giving it further thought he understood why this decision was made. He noted that the reality of the matter is that non-tenure faculty cannot say things like tenured faculty can. At first blush, the decision seemed to further disenfranchise non-tenured faculty, but in actually the decision was made to protect them. Professor Patterson stated that he would report back on the FCC's interpretation of this decision.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate