

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

January 25, 2013

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Agenda Items for February 6 Meeting with Dr. Friedman, Medical School Faculty-Led Strategic Planning Process, Debrief from Collegiate Chairs Luncheon, Tobacco-Free Campus, Spring Forum]

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, Cynthia Gross, Robert Kratzke, Kathleen Krichbaum, Sandra Myers

Guests: Ferd Schlapper, director and chief health officer, Boynton Health Service (BHS) and Dave Golden, director, Public Health and Communications, BHS; Emily Lawrence, associate to the deputy chief of staff, Office of the President

Others attending: Barb Elliott, Vernon Weckwerth

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

II). Members unanimously approved the December 21, 2013 minutes.

III). Following approval of the December minutes, the committee identified agenda items for their next meeting with Dr. Friedman on February 6, 2013:

- 2014 – 2015 Biennial Budget Request to Minnesota Legislature, with an emphasis on AHC funding initiatives.
- Update on the Medical School's faculty-led strategic planning efforts.

IV). The committee continued its discussion from its December 21 meeting about sending Dr. Friedman a letter concerning the faculty-led strategic planning process for the Medical School that President Kaler requested he launch. Members agreed that a letter would be appropriate and timely. Professor Patterson asked Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, to draft the letter and send it out to the committee for approval before sending it to Dr. Friedman.

VI). Members took a few minutes to debrief from the recent collegiate chairs lunch meeting. Professor Patterson noted the 7.12 statements continue to be a topic of concern. Clearly, there is frustration with the process and how much time it is taking. After some discussion, the committee decided to have Ms. Dempsey request an update on the AHC schools' 7.12 statements from the Provost's Office and also to invite Provost Hanson to a spring meeting to discuss this issue further.

VII). Professor Patterson welcomed Ferd Schlapper, director and chief health officer, Boynton Health Service (BHS) and Dave Golden, director, Public Health and Communications, BHS, who were invited to talk about the tobacco-free campus initiative that is underway. Members of the committee went around the table and introduced themselves.

Mr. Schlapper began by distributing a handout to supplement their presentation, and thanked the committee for giving them the opportunity to meet with the committee about this important campaign. Salient highlights from their presentation included:

- A goal of the tobacco-free campus campaign is to create a comprehensive, healthy campus community of wellbeing where students, faculty and staff can do their best work and flourish.
- Tobacco continues to be the one legal product that when used as directed leads to major illness and premature death.
- Based on survey results, students (smokers and non-smokers) report that the University of Minnesota campus is their number one place for secondhand smoke exposure.
- Strategies for eliminating smoke exposure and/or to help smokers quit include:
 - Price point – cigarette tax.
 - Inconvenience – the more inconvenient it is to smoke, the more it reduces consumption rates.
 - Change the social norm as it relates to smoking.
- Currently, 1,130 schools in the U.S. are smoke free with 766 of these schools being tobacco-free.
- The American College Health Association encourages colleges and universities to achieve a 100% tobacco-free environment.
- Going tobacco-free aligns with the University's mission for creating an environment where learning can occur.
- Tobacco products are the number one expense as it relates to campus clean up.
- Over half of smokers surveyed reported trying to quit 2½ times in the past year.
- A fair number of smokers support a tobacco-free policy because they know it will help them work towards quitting.
- In terms of safety, concern has been voiced about students who live on campus having to walk a few blocks at night to get off University property to smoke. With over 1,100 schools having gone smoke and/or tobacco-free, there have been no documented cases to support this concern. Research indicates that 11% - 12% of today's 17 million students will die a premature death due to a tobacco-related illness. Taking this into consideration, having a tobacco-free campus actually advances safety.
- Regarding enforcement of a tobacco-free policy, it is about changing the social norm on the campus as it relates to tobacco use. On average, tobacco-free policies have a 95% compliance rate initially, and once smokers are educated about the policy, the compliance rate increases to 99%.
- Cessation resources will continue to be offered at the University, and will be well publicized.

- Implementation usually occurs over a 12 – 18 month period, and follows a formal process.
- At the request of President Kaler, the 2009 tobacco-free opinion survey was conducted again in 2012. The most recent survey results indicate that smoking continues to decline. Tobacco-free policies are effective in helping to reduce smoking across the country.
- Over 22% of those surveyed reported that they started to use tobacco since they arrived on campus. A tobacco-free policy would serve to prevent people from starting to smoke when they come to campus.
- In terms of the survey question that asked whether a tobacco-free policy would influence a person's decision to work or go to school here, the data indicates that a tobacco-free policy is viewed by many as a benefit and is expected to have more of a positive impact than a negative impact on people working or going to school here.
- There are currently 49 smoke or tobacco-free schools in Minnesota.

Members' questions/comments included:

- How will people know if they are on campus or off campus? As part of the implementation process, noted Mr. Schlapper, it will be extremely important to be clear about the campus boundaries so people know when they are on campus and when they are off campus.
- People may decide to smoke in the streets in order to not be on University property. Mr. Schlapper stated that the roads within the University's boundaries are within its control and people will not be able to smoke in the streets because they will be on University property.
- Who participated in the survey and what was the response rate? Mr. Golden stated that the survey was a random sample survey of 6,000 students and 3,000 faculty and staff. The response rate for students was 28% and 31% for faculty and staff.
- It is possible the survey was biased and people might not have answered if they were smokers. Mr. Golden stated that while this is possible, the survey demographics were a good match and regular surveillance indicates that BHS's data looks almost identical to the survey results. BHS is confident of its representative sample.
- Is UMD smoke-free? Yes, stated Mr. Golden, both UMD and the Crookston campuses are smoke-free.
- Please talk more about where people can and cannot smoke. Mr. Golden stated that the campus is actually well defined and the roads within the University's boundaries are within its control. Dinkytown and Stadium Village will not be covered by the policy. The rest of the State of Minnesota is under the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007, which prohibits smoking in virtually all indoor workplaces, including restaurants, bars and private clubs.
- Will the fraternities and sororities be required to be tobacco-free if this policy is put in place? Fraternities and sororities set their own policies.
- Who will be responsible for the educational component of a tobacco-free policy? Mr. Schlapper stated that BHS will likely take the lead as it relates to education

and will partner with other groups across the campus. A lot will need to be done around education and awareness before the policy is implemented.

- Does BHS want the AHC FCC to endorse this tobacco-free policy? Mr. Schlapper stated that BHS is looking for endorsements and some groups have also chosen to write resolutions or letters of support.
- Can current employees, for example, take any legal action against the University if it implements a tobacco-free policy? Mr. Schlapper stated that while people have the right to smoke, the University has the right to make their campus tobacco-free.
- Are there any health insurance rate benefits if the University goes tobacco-free? The Benefits Advisory Committee, noted Mr. Golden, has come out in support of a tobacco-free policy, and one of the reasons is because there will likely be a reduction in claims given there are fewer smokers. Roughly 10% of UPlan claims are attributable to smoking.
- Please provide the committee with the Olmsted County, Minnesota (<http://archinte.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1387590>) data as well as the Helena, Montana data about the link between smoking bans and heart attacks.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the committee decided to put the tobacco-free campus matter on its February 15 agenda for further discussion. At that meeting, members will decide if they want to endorse the tobacco-free policy and/or possibly take other action, e.g., letter of support.

VIII). Next, Professor Patterson welcomed Emily Lawrence, associate to the deputy chief of staff, Office of the President, and called for another round of introductions. Professor Patterson stated that Ms. Lawrence was invited to hear about what the AHC FCC is envisioning for its March 4, 2013 spring forum that President Kaler will participate in.

Professor Patterson explained that the committee is planning to host a one-hour conversation with President Kaler to talk about the future of the AHC and to hear President Kaler's vision for the AHC moving forward. The AHC FCC forum subcommittee will collect questions from AHC faculty ahead of time, and thematically categorize them before giving them to President Kaler to help him prepare for the discussion. In addition, the AHC FCC would also like 15 minutes or so of the forum to be allotted to taking questions from the floor (attendees will be given index cards to write their questions on). Professor Elliott from UMD has agreed to serve as moderator. Ms. Lawrence stated that the forum format sounds fine, and believes President Kaler would prefer this format over a formal presentation/speech. She added that as part of the dialogue she believes President Kaler would be interested in getting faculty input on the topics discussed.

Professor Gross asked if President Kaler has done any other meet and greet type events with other groups comparable to AHC faculty, and, if so, how did these events go? Ms. Lawrence stated that President Kaler has done a number of department visits and has

done at least one all-school meeting (School of Nursing). These events have all been well received by participants.

Members went on to share their ideas for possible forum topics, e.g., graduate and professional education, interdisciplinary research, thoughts on the AHC in Duluth and Rochester, the medical marketplace in general and the University's relationship with Fairview, President Kaler's priorities, the relationship between the University and industry, and the CTSI.

In response to a question about what President Kaler wants to see out of the AHC, Ms. Lawrence stated that in her opinion he wants to grow the strength of the AHC because he knows how important the AHC is to the University and the State of Minnesota.

Members thanked Ms. Lawrence for attending their meeting to discuss the upcoming spring forum. After Ms. Lawrence left, the committee spent the remaining few minutes discussing the forum and what has been done thus far and what needs to be done.

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

Renee Dempsey
University Senate