

**STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (SSCC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

January 29, 2015

[In these minutes: AHC Student Health Plan discontinuation discussion; New business]

[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 represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Valkyrie Jensen (chair), Alex Stangel (vice chair), Laddie Arnold, Martin Caride, Cedric Citrowske, Zach Shartiag, Rob Stewart, Jordan Weil

GUESTS: Carl Anderson, Andrew McNally, Susann Jackson, Alfonso Sintjago

OTHERS: Christine Myers

REGRETS: Nick Dalton, Olivia Stiller

ABSENT: None

**1. GAPSА AND COGS RESTRUCTURING**

Andrew McNally, Council of Graduate Students (COGS) president, and Alfonso Sintjago, Graduate and Professional Student Association (GAPSA) president, explained that they would like to discuss with SSCC the implications for student governance if GAPSA and COGS separate. GAPSA would be legally renamed the Professional Student Association (PSA). It is clear that there are separate needs that could be better met through separate organizations. For this change to take place, they will ensure there is full student support. They will seek a campus-wide referendum to determine if professional and graduate students would prefer one structure or separate organizations, working together on some things, but having the freedom and autonomy to address concerns specific to the separate groups. For example, tuition is an important issue, but it is more of a priority for professional students. They then asked members what they thought of the proposal and if they have any suggestions. The following was discussed:

- PSA and COGS would continue to collaborate on events such as Welcome Week and legislative advocacy.
- Mr. McNally noted that the proportion of graduate and professional student representatives on the Student Senate would need consideration. Ms. Jensen

agreed that this change could be reflected in the membership of SSCC and the Student Senate.

- Ms. Jensen explained that a similar structure to that of the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) could be possible for PSA and COGS. When an undergraduate student is elected by their college as a student senator, they are also considered a voting member of MSA. Mr. McNally said that the Student Senate could vote on this structure if the referendum passes.

Members agreed that this structure would empower students and simplify the governance structure.

## **2. AHC STUDENT HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN (AHC SHBP) DISCUSSION**

Carl Anderson, chief operating officer, and Sue Jackson, director, Student Health Benefits, Boynton Health Service (BHS), attended the meeting to discuss why the AHC SHBP was discontinued and hear the concerns of the committee.

Ms. Jackson outlined the history of the AHC SHBP. She explained that it was developed to offer different eligibility criteria, richer benefits, and benefits offered outside of BHS to AHC students. These characteristics immediately made the candidate pool vulnerable. After the plan was put into place the claims factor was higher per student, so the cost had to be increased. The plan consistently ran at a medical loss ratio above 100%. The following factors also contributed to decreased enrollment:

- The Affordable Care Act allowed students to stay on their parent's coverage until 26 years of age.
- A student requested a waiver for a plan that was not comparable, but the legislative committee ruled that restrictive waivers were no longer allowed no matter what the coverage being requested included.
- The cost was increased over time with the pool that was left.
- The last year the plan was in place, 500 students migrated to the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP). Peak enrollment was 2,500 for the AHC SHBP.
- The cost increase with such low enrollment would not have offered a better value than plans offered through the public exchange.

Ms. Jackson explained that there was no cost increase this past year for the SHBP, while this fall will have a minimal increase. The main issue noted in feedback regarding the discontinuation of the AHC SHBP has been a disruption in the pharmacy prescriptions. Only 600-700 students experienced this change because students graduated out of their programs. Those affected by the change in eligibility, like those in distance programs, would no longer qualify, but they did not hear of many people that had an issue.

- Measures in place for those experiencing issues:
  - For those without eligibility for the SHBP, they had 60 days to switch.
  - BHS Pharmacy (BHSP) will help get students enrolled in drug assistance programs.
  - There was a 90-day extension for drugs no longer offered.

- Blue Cross Blue Shield sent a letter in July 2014 to those taking specialty drugs that would not be covered, and other pharmacy issues were routed through the BHSP.
  - Ms. Jensen pointed out that many students reported feeling that they had not received adequate communication regarding the changes.

The value of the SHBP plan is \$175/month, while the AHC SHBP would have been \$300/month, which is equal to that of a plan in the public exchange. The pool of users to offset the cost needs to be large, and the AHC SHBP pool was shrinking each year. The following points were discussed:

- The pharmacy formulary is published on the BHS website.
- Rochester students have access to pharmacies outside of BHSP, but they are still under the same formulary established by BHS.
- Students can use services offered by MNSure next year if they are residents of Minnesota.
- Were students consulted as to whether pharmacy benefits outside of BHSP could be added to the regular SHBP?
  - Mr. Anderson explained that this would increase the cost of the plan. There could be an actuarial assessment of the cost completed. The formulary would not change, but the cost of allowing access to an outside pharmacy could be assessed. The BHSP is a source of revenue.
  - Members commented that if copays for BHSP were less than outside pharmacies, it would likely remain the preferred pharmacy for students.
- Members commented that the pharmacy restriction is an issue when traveling as are the lack of pharmacy hours. It is also inconvenient because many students do not live on campus or in the Twin Cities.
  - Mr. Anderson said that they hope to increase access to the pharmacy through future construction, but this will not be possible for a few years. They are also considering a delivery service to increase access. Parking vouchers are available for those that have an appointment or pick up a prescription.

Ms. Jensen closed the discussion and hoped that this could be brought back to the committee after an actuarial assessment of offering premium copay to those that choose an outside pharmacy while having access to BHSP.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Jensen explained that she is speaking with the chair of SCEP to discuss syllabi release and mid-term evaluations. The following topics were then discussed:

- Providing content to the Undergraduate and Graduate Update:
  - Some members expressed interest in learning more about what people care about. Others thought that it could be helpful to include messaging around important resolutions that are passed by the Student Senate.

- GRE Subject tests not available on campus:
  - Members discovered that GRE Subject Tests are still offered on paper. Mr. Shartiag suggested that members speak with the Libraries to see if subject tests could be offered on campus.
- Math and Physics departments not listing professor assigned to courses.
- Ban the Box legislation was passed in Minnesota, yet a question regarding criminal history is included on the University undergraduate admissions application. Members discussed writing a letter asking to remove this question. It was mentioned that the University might need to ask because of liability, but this could be left off of the initial application. Mr. Stewart said that this has not been shown to be an effective tool to prevent crime on campus.
  - Members agreed that they would like to consult further on this issue.
  - More information on Ban the Box is available here:  
[http://mn.gov/mdhr/employers/banbox\\_overview\\_privemp.html](http://mn.gov/mdhr/employers/banbox_overview_privemp.html)

Hearing no further business, Ms. Jensen adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich  
University Senate Office