

AHC Faculty Consultative Committee
October 9, 2001
Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Marc Jenkins (chair), Chris Mueller, Muriel Bebeau, Dennis Clohisy

REGRETS: Mike Murphy, James Boulger, Ronald Sawchuck, Dan Feeney, Ted Oegema

ABSENT: Jean Forster

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt, Assistant VP for Education, AHC

1. Periodic Review of Interdisciplinary Centers and Units for the Academic Health Center

Barbara Brandt, Assistant VP for Education, presented an overview of the plan for a periodic review of the Academic Health Center's interdisciplinary centers or units. The primary goal of the review is to improve the quality of teaching, learning, research, and public service by periodically assessing outcomes and achievements while reviewing the missions, goals, practices, and activities. The center/unit will perform a self-study assessment and file a report. An external ad hoc review committee will then review this report. A review process is being implemented for Centers because they are outside of the college level review and are not routinely reviewed by accreditation.

The Center for Spirituality will be the first center to undergo a review.

Dr. Brandt pointed out that much like an accreditation process, the center will prepare a self-study report based upon suggested criteria and an external committee would be appointed that would be Academic Health Center-wide and have at least one external consultant (external to the University) that would review the Center. The report will go to the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences.

After describing the process, Dr. Brandt asked members for input. One committee member inquired as to how the external review members would be selected.

She responded that the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences would appoint the external ad hoc review committee in consultation with the center's supervising administrator. In turn, the supervising administrator will consult with the Academic Health Center's Educational Leadership Forum or Council of Research Deans to nominate members for the external review committee. Another member asked who would pay for the external reviewers.

Dr. Brandt responded that she thought Dr. Cerra's office would, but said she would get clarification about that piece.

Members recommended that:

- The external review committee should not include faculty and staff inside the center under review.
- Clear statements of goals and outcomes are needed.
- An uninhibited review is conducted.
- It is made clear who pays for the external reviewers.

Committee members indicated they thought the periodic review of the interdisciplinary centers and units was

a good idea and approved the process with the noted suggestions listed above.

2. AHC Awards for Distinction in Interdisciplinary Research, Education, and Clinical Care

A draft proposal for discussion purposes only was distributed for members' review. Professor Jenkins pointed out that this item would be discussed with SVP Cerra at the meeting on October 17th and the purpose for the discussion on this day was to prepare for the discussion with SVP Cerra.

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In order for interdisciplinary research, education and practice to occur there must be incentives and rewarding it in this way is good.

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Awarding for interdisciplinary research, education, and clinical care is congruent with the strategic plan.

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Concern was raised that it appeared that an individual rather than a team would be awarded.

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Members expressed an interest in talking to SVP Cerra about other initiatives for recognizing excellence in areas other than strictly interdisciplinary activities.

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The institution does not have anyone in the National Academy. An award ladder could lead to that, however, no one at the meeting knew how that nomination process works.

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Members expressed an interest in talking to the SVP about the possibility of establishing of a nominating committee to seek nominees (teams) for the awards for distinction in interdisciplinary research, education, and clinical care.

§

Members will talk to the SVP about criteria/process and if there will be a screening committee to review the nominations.

Committee members then engaged in a discussion about rewarding excellence, fostering interdisciplinary work and fostering excellence.

3.

Professor Jenkins asked members to forward to Vickie Courtney any responses they received from their constituent groups regarding issues of potential interest for the AHC FCC. Ms. Courtney will compile a list and the committee will discuss it at the next meeting.

4.

Academic Appointments – Committee members spent the remainder of the time discussing the academic appointment guidelines; the status in each of the AHC schools/colleges with respect to the proportion of tenure track faculty and contract faculty; criteria for promotional ladders for academic professionals that fulfill two of the three roles of traditional faculty. The details of this discussion do not appear as part of the written record. It was agreed, however, that the issues raised would be discussed with SVP Cerra.

Hearing no further business, Professor Jenkins adjourned the meeting.

Vickie Courtney

