

AHC FCC and
AHC FAC Chairs
Joint AHC Governance
April 13, 2006
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 Delegation: none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Twin Cities Campus Delegation, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Present: Susan Berry, Dan Feeney, Peter Davies, Michael Georgieff, Lois Heller, Linda Halcon, John Himes, Brian Isetts, Kathleen Krichbaum, Patricia Lenton, Nelson Rhodus, and Leslie Sharkey

Regrets: Gary Davis, Stephen Ekker, Cynthia Gross, David Ingbar, and George Maldonado

Professor Krichbaum began by stating this is the second joint meeting of the AHCFCC and the AHC FAC Chairs. The first meeting took place on January 12, 2006. She said the idea for the meetings was a response to faculty who had expressed a need for improved communications across the AHC.

Professor Krichbaum recounted a short history of the AHCFCC, which was established in April of 1996. She noted here is one member on the committee for each school in the AHC and according to the committee by-laws the members are to be elected by the school Faculty Advisory Committees. She remarked that joint AHC governance meetings would support the uniformity of the election process, noting that the schools of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health will need to elect new AHCFCC members to begin serving July 1, 2006. She continued by saying the chair of the AHCFCC and represents the interests of the AHC faculty as a member of the University FCC. She recalled that at the first joint meeting the group discussed a history of separation between the AHC and the other parts of the University, adding that this does not serve the AHC or the University as a whole. She said the AHCFCC would like to develop a more vital relationship with AHC faculty.

The group then engaged in a discussion of tenure and non-tenure track faculty roles and responsibilities. Members examined the current relationship between tenure and each of the three parts of the University mission and the potential impact of strategic initiatives on these roles. The discussion encompassed the impact of these issues on faculty culture.

Brian Isetts noted that each of the AHC strategic task force reports included recommendations to address faculty classifications and that he had served on the Clinical Sciences task force. He urged members to read the report from the task force and provide them with feedback, particularly on the recommendations concerning faculty classifications. Members then discussed the tenure review and approval processes.

Professor Krichbaum then led a discussion of the University Senate policy on Academic Unit Governance. The discussion encompassed unit and institutional levels of governance as related to each classification of faculty and faculty like professionals. The policy can be viewed on line at: <http://www.fpd.finop.umn.edu/groups/senate/documents/policy/acadgovpol.html>

Professor Krichbaum provided information on the history of the Academy of Excellence in Health Research and the pool of nominees. Group members discussed the ways in which issues of diversity in the pool of nominees reflects issues of diversity and equity within the AHC faculty, as well as the broader University faculty. The group discussed ways of effectively addressing issues of faculty culture and raised the idea of organizing an AHC forum on faculty culture. Professor Krichbaum said she would bring the idea to Senior Vice President Cerra.

Professor Krichbaum reported the AHCFCC is working with Vice President Brandt to assemble an Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching. She noted the Academy is part of an effort to elevate the value of teaching scholarship across the AHC. The committee will complete work on the development of the Academy and implement the first nomination process sometime in the 2006-2007 year.

Professor Krichbaum ended the meeting by inviting the FAC Chairs to attend any of the AHCFCC meetings. She will contact the chairs about the development of a forum on faculty culture.

Hearing no further business Professor Krichbaum adjourned the meeting.

Sara Balick
University Senate