

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

DECEMBER 19, 2001

5:00 - 6:00

406 CHILD REHAB CENTER

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

PRESENT: Andy Grande (Medical School), Jessica Stamschror (Veterinary Medicine).

ABSENT:

Michael Hawley (Dentistry), Melissa Highman (Nursing), Mark Weisbrod (Medical School), Mark Wiisanen (UMD School of Medicine).

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt, Senior Vice President Frank Cerra.

The committee discussed the following topics with Dr. Cerra:

CLINICAL SKILLS LABS

Dr. Cerra said the physical space is being provided to create a clinical skills lab. The objective is to provide students with structured clinical exam practice, provided by actors serving as patients, to test a student's outcome competency. There are 18 rooms, in which a different patient awaits the student's diagnosis under a timed setting. This will be part of the board exams in the future and is being looked at for school accreditation. This was primarily conceived for the East Bank, but Veterinary Medicine is considering something similar, especially when dealing with companion animals and their owners, since there is much more contact in this case with the public.

Q: Do any schools use skills labs now?

A: The Medical School does and Pharmacy to a lesser extent.

Barbara Brandt noted that the intent is to develop interdepartmental scenarios that will force students across disciplines to work together on a diagnosis and its treatment.

A committee member noted that Veterinary Medicine provides little exposure to real-life settings since students only spend 4-12 weeks with practitioners, and only for two week rotations. The program only provides for one and a half years of hands-on experience, so there is not enough time to spend a long period in one place.

Dr. Cerra said that dental students never leave the school to treat patients so they are completely unprepared to work in a clinic setting, or manage their own. Some core faculty see the need for change, but change is slow at the University. This is not always bad, but it does leave room for improvement.

INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Q: Are schools considering integrated education?

A: The schools are just beginning these talks, although the students seem to be in favor of this push. The problem is how to determine which course should be combined, which ones should be done first, who receives the tuition revenue, how are they scheduled, and who teaches the courses. In these same talks, technologically integrated classes are being discussed to provide access to students who cannot be in the class on the East Bank.

Dr. Cerra noted that he is working on creating community clinic sites to which students from the Medical School, Nursing, and Pharmacy would be sent in teams to learn to coordinate efforts for patients.

A committee member said that it was hard to know what role each type of medical professional plays in a hospital or clinic setting since there is no education in this area.

Dr. Cerra said that this is the critical reason for interdisciplinary education since without this understanding, it leads to

problems in health care delivery. Faculty need to understand the importance of interdisciplinary education, and students are the driving force to change

PHYSICAL SPACE

Q: Has anyone looked at the shape of classrooms and other facilities in the AHC?

A: All buildings in the health sciences area are being walked through and notes are being taken. The problem with classrooms here is that it is decentralized with a large capital expense. A central office was created two years ago to tackle this problem but it will take time to update the physical environment and technology. Even this will only reach certain classrooms which are centrally scheduled. There are still AHC, collegiate, and departmental classrooms which need to find other sources of funding to be updated. The main problem is that it is easier to receive funds for new buildings than to fix the old ones. AHC students feel the most impact since they can spend the entire day in the same room.

OTHER TOPICS

Barbara Brandt said that a pre-health sciences advising center will be opening soon to help undergraduates determine what field they would like to study. She has been in contact with the college's student service directors to make sure that there are similar programming services available for graduate and professional students already enrolled. She is looking for feedback on whether students needs are being met and if they are receiving wise advice. Focus groups were created to solicit this feedback, but they also brought up other issues, such as faculty use of technology and technology available in classrooms.

Dr. Cerra noted that students can be of assistance in helping to plan student learning space, web portals, and small exam rooms.

Q: Has the financial aid problem in Veterinary Medicine been resolved?

A: Hours are being established for a counselor to be available on the St. Paul campus to Veterinary Medicine students.

A committee member noted that the on-line access to journals through the BioMedical Library is a great improvement since it provides access whenever a students needs the information. The committee then discussed the use of Up-to-date regarding a student's ability to digest journal articles themselves instead of by an outside source and whether a course is needed to teach student's how to use and judge internet resources.

Q: How can students be made to use technology?

A: Students need to know that technology is a necessary tool in the health science field and that they cannot expect to succeed without this knowledge. Faculty also need to create reasons for students to use it, such as quizzes, exams, and additional course materials. Computers should be a complement to learning.

With no further information, the meeting was the adjourned.

Becky Hippert
University Senate