ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2002
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), Michael Hawley (Dentistry), Jessica Stamschror (Veterinary Medicine), Mark Wiisanen (UMD School of Medicine).

ABSENT: Melissa Highman (Nursing), Mark Weisbrod (Medical School).

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt.

Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center (AHC), noted that Senior Vice President Cerra could not be today's meeting, but she would relay information and concerns to him. She noted that her position is just over one year old, and she works on community-based education, rural health education, technology, interdisciplinary education, faculty development, and classroom space programming.

She said that a clinical skills lab is being planned to simulate rotations for students and that a pre-health sciences advising office is being designed. The AHC Web Portal project is also progressing. Fourteen student focus groups have been completed, from which the top requests are more materials on the web for classes, as well as grades and financial aid. A common AHC on-line calendar, proposed by Andy Grande last year, is also under development. A demonstration will be given Friday to a state senator.

She then asked the students to tell her about classroom environment, classroom scheduling, classroom technology, computers in labs, and security and safety concerns in each of their schools.

Mike Hawley provided the following update for the Dental School:

- CHIP does a good job on security because of key card access
- 24 hour study lounge for dental students has also been fitted with key card access
- Problem remains because students are forced out of clinic floors at night by security even though the Dean has given them permission to study there
- Dental School has a new website
- Any web materials are always used by the students
- Dental School is working with clinics across the state to provide outreach
- Mandatory graduation requirement to spend two weeks in a practice
- This requirement is hard on people who have a family
- Dental School has a unique need for room scheduling since classes do not meet for 15 weeks or on the regular University time schedule
- Rooms for big and small groups are needed
- Students see bad classrooms as a result of scheduling
- Some rooms do not have enough seats or do not have desks to take notes
- Dental classes do not have classroom priority in the Dental Building
- Students want the problems fixed, but they are not sure what can be done
- Computer lab was needed so the Dean used his funds to purchase computers
- Lab is well-used by students
- Digital photography and slides are available in the lab to students
- The Minnesota Dental Assocation now purchases PDA's for first-year students, and the students are using them for clinic schedules and class notes
- It would be useful if more schedules could be used with the PDAs
- Student advocate position was created and is held by a faculty member.

Barbara Brandt noted that there are four levels to room scheduling: central university, AHC, college and departments. Health professions education classes are often scheduled when clinical faculty can be available. For example, in the School of Dentistry, clinics usually drive start and end times of classes. The AHC is working on a protocol to better utilize classroom space, plans to refurbish existing rooms, and a design to renovate the Mayo Auditorium.

Mark Wiisanen then talked about the conditions at the Duluth School of Medicine and the School of Public Health, were he was formerly a student:

- Duluth does not have the same problems as the Twin Cities in terms of poor classrooms and scheduling conflicts
- Medical students have a web portal link to use from the Duluth site
- Computer lab is very useful since exams, histology, and neuroanatomy are available.
- PDAs are being used more, but better links are needed for applications and web portals.
- Public Health does not have any space for a computer lab since there is no central location.
- A few computers are in one lounge, but they are older and not widely used since only word processing and statistics programs are provided

Barbara Brandt noted that the Pharmacy program will be expanding in 2003 to provide links to the Dentistry practice in Hibbing to foster rural health care. She then asked what services can be provided to the Duluth students to make them feel part of the AHC.

Mark Wiisanen replied that the second to third year transition is hard for students because they do not know what to expect when they move from Duluth to the Twin Cities. Any information that could be provided to students, besides their rotation schedule, would be greatly appreciated.

Mike Hawley noted that many students need the same information. In Dentistry, a three day orientation is provided to acclimate students to the school and the Twin Cities in general. It was decided that orientation examples would be collected to see if a more comprehensive program could be created for all the colleges to use. Information should be included on housing, parking, and carpooling.

Andy Grande said that security is a concern for third and fourth year students since they leave school on rotations. Many times they park farthest away from the hospital or clinic and have shifts that start or end late at night. On campus, key card access to PWB and Mayo at night would provide more security for students who are here late.

Jessica Stamschror then made the following comments about Veterinary Medicine:

- St. Paul has no security people so most monitoring is done by the students themselves.
- Bags are being stolen out of classrooms when students leave for lunch.
- Key card access on classrooms would reduce security problems.
- There is not enough locker space for all the students.
- Parking in difficult since the closest lot is now a ramp.
- Students either have to pay to park near the building or walk across a deserted campus late at night to their car.
- Students are required to have a computer, although it does not have to be a laptop.
- Students use computers to study and take quizzes.
- Notes are provided on CDs since they are better organized and require less room.
- Radiology is on-line and X-rays are being digitized for the web.

Committee members then talked about note co-ops in the colleges. In this program, students pay to receive class notes, with each student taking notes one day. Members discussed the benefit of paper versus on-line notes, as well as video-streaming classes.

Members next discussed whether exams require students to critique information. For the first two year, Medical Schools exams are geared to prepare students for national tests which are multiple choice, so critiquing is not involved. Students learn to trust information at face value and not challenge any conclusions. Opposed to this is the Dental School which teaches students to study procedure and material claim since sales reps will try and get dentists to use new products and procedures. Veterinary Medicine also teaches a class on research design so that students can assess future work. Public Health does not provide a central orientation for critiquing, but all students are required to take classes in statistics and epidemiology so research design is studied through these classes.

Lastly, the committee discussed Diehl Library, noting that it is a "dark, sterile" environment. Many students use the library's resources, but prefer to study at libraries at different colleges because it is a more esthetically pleasing environment. Some students do not come to campus when they have large lecture classes, preferring to study elsewhere. Improvements should be made so students can study in the library instead of going somewhere else.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Becky Hippert
University Senate