

# ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2002**

**5:00 - 6:00**

**488 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:**

Melissa Highman, Chair (Nursing), Kim Canfield (Public Health), Andy Grande (Medical School), Jessica Hammell (Veterinary Medicine), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), Mark Weisbrod (Medical School), Mark Wiisanen (UMD School of Medicine).

Pharmacy representative yet to be appointed.

**GUESTS:** Barbara Brandt.

The committee members started by introducing themselves.

## **1. EXPECTATIONS OF AHC SCC MEMBERS**

Melissa Highman, AHC SCC Chair, started reviewing a document on expectations of AHC SCC members which she had drafted. She noted that it was very important that all members attend meetings and solicit feedback from students in their colleges on issues that the committee is discussing or on topics of concern to students.

Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education, referred students to the website for the committee (<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/committees/ahcpscc.html>) which contains the meeting schedule, membership list, and minutes from past meetings. When ideas or concerns are presented at these meetings, she said that she has several mechanisms to discuss them with the colleges. She has meetings every two weeks with the AHC deans and the associate deans. Other groups, such as the experiential education directors, meet with Office of Education staff regularly. She said that it is very important for the student perspective to be understood from this committee and then communicated to these other bodies.

## **2. COMMUNICATION TO AHC STUDENTS: WHAT ARE THE BEST METHODS?**

Melissa Highman said that it can be hard for anybody to reach students at all levels in 7 colleges and 11 programs. There are several methods that can be used: e-mail, class announcements, bulletin boards, and the web portal, but she wanted to know which ones really work to reach students.

Members made the following comments:

- E-mail is a quick way to reach many students, but sometimes students receive too much or just delete messages when they do not know who sent them.
- Web should be used to solicit feedback.
- Many students in the experiential rotation phase of their programs are infrequently on campus and therefore are very hard to reach.
- Separate messages should be used for special notices since students tend to ignore weekly notice e-mails.
- Professors could be e-mailed notices which they would read in class.
- Class announcements only work for small classes.
- Veterinary Medicine has a professional skills class which might be a good way to teach students about the web portal.
- Class representatives and professors who are advisors should be used to spread information.
- All dental students use the locker room, so notices are usually placed on the bulletin board in the rooms.
- *Minnesota Daily* ads and articles in other newspapers could be used to advertise events or new services.

Barbara Brandt said that the discussion regarding a web portal started two years ago, after which time the University approached the AHC to work on its development. The decision to be the test site for portal development was based upon

input from the Student Consultative Committee. Focus and user groups were conducted last year to offer feedback on the demo version. Several channels are now ready to be used, but the AHC needs to determine how to train schools and programs to use the portal to disseminate information, otherwise students will not use it. Student functionality is also key to its use, so the portal will allow students to order textbooks and check e-mail, as well as being customizable. Faculty will be encouraged to do their Web CT work through the portal also. A final launch will take place in January, but Barbara Brandt noted that she will arrange a demonstration for the committee at the November meeting.

### **3. FEEDBACK LOOPS ON AHC PROGRAMS**

Melissa Highman asked committee members if they knew whom in their college they would talk to if they had a problem in one of their classes. Students had expressed a concern that in some colleges they do not feel that someone exists to hear student concerns and to provide answers, so she wanted to know if the same situation exists in other colleges.

Committee members made the following remarks:

- Medical School has meetings with deans and students to work on curriculum changes; students and faculty also meet with a proctor following each class to provide feedback.
- Public Health has two staff members to handle logistical problems, but there is not much faculty communication to deal with academic matters; many faculty are involved in research and hard to reach while students are split between different locations.
- There are two problems for students: personal issues with class schedules and overall curricular problems for a class.
- Student representatives and college boards can be utilized.
- Veterinary Medicine has a good feedback system in which each student representative can take votes from each class and then discuss the outcome with the faculty; there is also one person from each class on the curriculum committee.
- Faculty and administrators need to be willing to explain to students why some things are setup one way versus another.
- UMD Medical School has one student as the grievance officer, but the class is small enough that each student has the opportunity to talk to the faculty himself or herself.

Barbara Brandt said that this communication is an example of the potential impact that this committee can possibly have. She asked each member to talk to other students in their college prior to the next meeting to determine how they handle personal/logistical issues and curriculum feedback/assessment. She suggested that the SCC develop a list of “Best Practices” for providing feedback to schools and programs. She will then distribute this information to groups with which she meets. This type of information would be helpful to use in faculty development activities.

### **4. NEEDLE STICK AND IMMUNIZATION POLICY FEEDBACK**

Barbara Brandt said that eighteen months ago the AHC began discussing the issue of students on rotations who have a needle stick incident. A committee was formed to research whether the students know what to do in the case of an accident. If a source patient is HIV positive, prophylactic treatment is necessary within two hours. A new policy was implemented and cards describing what to do in case of an accident were distributed to all rotation students. She noted that because there were 90 reported cases at Boynton last year, continuous education is needed on protection, universal precautions, and public health issues.

The AHC also examined policies across the AHC and determined that because students on rotations are not employees, they could not be treated in Employee Health Services. If they receive treatment in Emergency Rooms, they could receive bills of \$1,500 to 2,000 for which they would be personally responsible. The AHC worked with Boynton Health Service and a faculty committee to develop guidelines consistent with OSHA and state regulations for health professionals. These requirements include the two-step Mantoux and the Hepatitis B series. In the future, Boynton will be keeping the registry for immunizations to meet the new Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act standards to go into effect April 14, 2003. Students will not be allowed to register for school until this requirement is met. This is a new requirement here and will take a few years to work out the bugs, although it is the standard at many other schools

Committee members made the following comments:

- Public Health provides a two week orientation for its students where they are briefed on the new requirements
- Last year’s tetanus shortage created problems for some students. This occurred primarily because when the tetanus supply was available, the students were required to get the immunizations on short notice.

- One student described her experience at Boynton. When she asked for a full panel of immunizations , the health care provider did not know to what the student was referring .
- Boynton needs to create more spaces for patients in a timely manner, especially at times outside of 8 am-5 pm since many AHC students have classes during this entire time.
- In Veterinary Medicine, one doctor spends an entire day on campus administering shots to all the students.
- Nursing students might be able to administer shots similar to the flu immunizations.
- Insurance does not cover the costs of shots which can be very expensive for students.
- AHC needs to protect students through education and by trying to make sure that practitioners note which patients have Hepatitis C or HIV, such as a bigger notice in the chart
- Coding for diseases might lead to patients being treated differently.
- More education is needed on universal precautions.

In response to comments regarding how infectious diseases are charted and how students should be educated to respond, Barbara Brandt said that she would share this information with the associate deans. She also will invite David Golden of Boynton Health Service to the December meeting to encourage the SCC to discuss experiences with Boynton and to discuss the new policy.

## **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members mentioned the following topics for future meetings:

- Interaction among students in different AHC programs and colleges
- Study space
- AHC programs need to incorporate more technology development and improvement in the educational programs.
- Improved Biomedical Library links to hospital libraries for students who are on rotations.
- Health Career Center
- Clinical Skills Lab
- Any problems with My AHC

Barbara Brandt said that many of these topics are already being discussed by the AHC but she will provide a report on these items at future meetings.

With no further business, Melissa Highman thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2002.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate