

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 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), Jessica Hammell (Veterinary Medicine), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), David Renstrom (Pharmacy).

REGRETS:

Andy Grande (Medical School), Mark Weisbrod (Medical School), Mark Wiisanen (UMD School of Medicine).

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt, Dan Haugen, Michael Lougee.

1. DEMONSTRATION OF THE AHC WEB PORTAL

Melissa Highman introduced Michael Lougee, the web designer for the AHC web portal. She said that the committee had asked for an update on this project, which was the purpose of tonight's demonstration.

Michael Lougee said that there are many parts to the University's web portal project, but that the release in the AHC will be the first version at the University, so problems are to be expected. The portal will be marketed in early December to students so that it can be used over the break to order books. A bigger push of its use will happen during spring semester since more class-relevant sites will be active.

He then distributed a handout detailing parts of the portal, such as the home page, news page, and tool kit, and provided a demonstration of the web site. He said that the home page will provide general information to users, but then each user can select which news channels, from within the AHC and the broader community, to which they wish to subscribe. The portal will work with each college to increase communication and allow for publication of calendars to a broader audience.

Q: Will the portal eliminate e-mail messages?

A: The hope is that as the portal is used more to post announcements, e-mail messages will decrease.

For students, the home page will be college and year specific in terms of the information being provided. A feature of the portal will also allow students to make their own discussion groups, functionality that other programs do not provide, so that discussions can continue outside class or study sessions can be conducted.

Q: Will portal discussions more closely resemble e-mail messaging or instant messaging?

A: Portal discussions will be updated every 20 minutes, but unlike other sources, the discussions will be kept indefinitely at this point so that students can refer back to discussions from a class the previous semester.

Q: Will the portal replace Web CT or will it work in conjunction with it?

A: The portal will not replace Web CT since each has its own strengths and weaknesses. Students will be informing the developers what works best in each circumstance.

Michael Lougee said that the tool kit will allow users to upload and download files, add links to sites, send reminders about Web CT assignments, access University e-mail accounts, buy books, and see a detailed course schedule. Everyone in the portal also has the opportunity to create their own news channel and limit who has access to it.

Barbara Brandt said that portal was discussed with several focus groups last year, after which much student functionality was added.

A member said that faculty need to be using the portal features to get the students using the services as well.

Q: How much time does it take to set-up a person's personal portal?

A: A default page is made for each user, but it takes a very short amount of time to customize the site.

2. "BEST PRACTICES" LIST FOR FEEDBACK LOOPS IN THE AHC

Melissa Highman said that the committee started this discussion at the last meeting and decided that there are two aspects to the issues: personal/logistical feedback loops and curricular issues. The purpose of the discussion is to find out what each school is doing, develop a list of best practices from across the AHC, and then use these examples in colleges where there are problems.

Barbara Brandt said that she mentioned this discussion with the deans at their last meeting and they were very open to ideas that might be generated.

Melissa Highman then asked members what practices should be on the list.

Members made the following comments:

1. Faculty and students need to be involved during the entire process; who comes first does not matter
2. Ground rules need to be established so that any suggestions are not accusatory
3. Ombudsman could be involved in discussions
4. Comments do not need to be in person; allowances should be made for written or e-mail comments as well
5. Public Health has a different need for advising since students have a choice about courses unlike other professional schools that have a cohort curriculum that all students must take.
6. Many colleges have a 'force mach' for curriculum
7. Career advising is needed
8. Students need help making research decisions
9. Students need to be better educated about processes early in the program
10. Information for students needs to be spread out over a longer period and written or put on the portal
11. Integrated education across AHC programs should be offered as a minor or a certificate program

Q: Will interdisciplinary work be possible in the new clinical space in Phillip-Wangensteen Building?

A: The space will be used for clinical skills assessment and might be useful for interdisciplinary work. The space is scheduled to open in January.

Melissa Highman said that this discussion would continue at the next meeting.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Barbara Brandt announced that David Golden from Boynton would be at the December 11 meeting to discuss the immunization policy. With no other business, Melissa Highman thanked all members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate