

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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2003**

**5:00 - 6:00 PM**

**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), Angela Feneis (Occupational Therapy), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), David Renstrom (Pharmacy), Kelly Schneider (Mortuary Science), Mark Wiisanen (UMD School of Medicine).

**ABSENT:** Leslie Carranza (Medical School – 1<sup>st</sup>

Year), Andy Grande (Medical School), Jessica Hammell (Veterinary Medicine), Wesley Kurszewski (Physical Therapy), Mark Weisbrod (Medical School).

**GUESTS:** Barbara Brandt.

## **1. PEERS INFORMATION**

A representative from the PEERS group said that they are presenting at a conference in Baltimore in November on addictive diseases and the impact that they have on health professions. To help with that presentation, she asked members to complete a survey on the impact that the February discussion had on them and their education.

## **2. 2003-04 COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Nominations and an election were held for the 2003-04 AHC SCC Committee Chair. Kim Canfield was elected to the position.

## **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Melissa Highman opened the discussion to any topics or questions that members had.

Matt Wiisanen said that the Duluth transition this year took place at a pre-orientation day. Topics included information on housing and bus passes, and campus tours. Much information was provided by Duluth alumni who sent emails to students with information on apartment vacancies.

**Q:** How will potential cuts to the Medical School affect Allied Health programs?

**A:** The Dean of the Medical School has a task force that is looking at the Allied Health fields and their placement within the AHC. Some other institutions have them as a separate division, so the dean is questioning whether they belong within that college. This is just the start of the discussion since there are many factors to consider. For two of the programs, they are the only ones within the state. Medical Technology is taught at other institutions but there is a shortage in the field. Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy are both premiere programs in their fields. Mortuary Science is the only program of its type in the state and is very different from a two-year technical school degree. Due to the budget constraints, it would appear unlikely that a new administrative structure would be created just for these programs. In any case, the programs are committed to graduate their students once they are admitted.

Committee members then discussed the current budget situation, making the following comments:

- Dental School is the only one between here and Washington, so it reserves seats for students from the Dakotas and Montana. The state does not see the social responsibility in educating students who will go to another state to practice.
- This perspective is opposite of the intent of an AHC career
- Students consider Medical School specialties closely because of the debt
- Service is needed in under-served and rural areas, but many students will not go because of debt

- There is a higher burn-out rate as less people enter the field and current employees work longer and harder to compensate
- Medicare dollars fund medical education, but this funding might disappear. Then who will fund residencies?
- Students need to realize that a large portion of education is state-funded and a small amount of tuition actually pays for their education
- Faculty shortage affects the number of students who can attend
- Some faculty do not want to teach but have been forced out of practice for medical reasons
- It is unfriendly to practice in Minnesota since repayment plans are better in other states
- How bad will it get before society cares?
- Money makes many decisions for students
- Unfortunately loans enter repayment while students are still in residency
- Student counseling on financial management needs to start early in the academic career

Q: What can students say to make their point heard?

A: Society is currently thinking in a short-term model with an attitude that education is 'not their problem.' Until they are personally inconvenienced, they will not care.

With no other business, Melissa Highman thanked the members being part of the committee this year, especially those from the Allied Health fields, and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate