

[In these minutes: Professional code of ethics, interdisciplinary education, AHC task force reports]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2006

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

488 CHILD REHAB CENTER

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Jeff Pinnow, Chair (Medical School-4th Year), Amenah Babar (Public Health), Michael Lueneburg (Physical Therapy), Karen Myren (Medical School-Duluth), Katie Rangen (Pharmacy-Duluth), Dana Simonson (Pharmacy-Twin Cities), Sara Tomczyk (Nursing-Twin Cities).

REGRETS:

Heidi Gluth (Medical Technology), Maria Huh (Veterinary Medicine), Linnea Jorgensen (Nursing-Rochester), David Nelson (Medical School-2nd Year), Elizabeth Welle (Occupational Therapy).

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt.

1. UPDATE ON THE PROFESSIONAL CODE OF ETHICS

Barbara Brandt said that a professional code of ethics has become a project of the Associate Deans. They started the discussion last year by looking at national codes and holding focus groups, which included students. They worked on this issue until last May, and have recently started discussions again. They can join the committee for a discussion once the issue is farther along.

They are looking at creating a common statement across the AHC that would equally apply to faculty, staff, and students in areas of classroom conduct, community interactions, and working with patients. There have been some concerns about behaviors, and the code would create a network to deal with these issues, as well as create an environment conducive to working with patients.

Q; How are students involved in this process?

A: A student should join the next Associate Deans meeting on Friday, December 1.

Jeff Pinnow said that he would attend this meeting.

2. FURTHER DISCUSSION ABOUT INTERDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION

Barbara Brandt said that there are currently 65 courses or initiatives that allow mixing between the colleges. At the deans' retreat on October 3, they discussed this topic and a commitment to achieve more interdisciplinary education.

Jeff Pinnow said that students know of a few opportunities to integrate education between a few disciplines, but the question is, what can be done to integrate all programs?

A committee member said that CHIP is a great source of extracurricular interdisciplinary activities; these activities show how to approach a problem from different disciplines and the rationale behind these decisions. However, CHIP only reaches the students who want to get involved, since most AHC students take classes and leave campus to study. Required courses would force everyone to be involved.

Q: How can the 65 courses impact student curriculum?

A: Most of the 65 courses are ones that faculty developed on the side, maybe to do once, and therefore are not part of the standard curriculum. The AHC needs to determine topics that need to be taught to students each year, and can be done through interdisciplinary education, such as health informatics.

3. UPDATE ON THE AHC TASK FORCE REPORTS

Barbara Brandt said that the entire University was involved in strategic positioning efforts last year to bring about dramatic changes across the University. In the AHC, four task forces were formed in the areas of:

- Clinical Sciences – looking at restructuring this area and providing more links to research; discussing how the educational model needs to change now to meet health care needs in 10 years, but students need to use skills in practice now to make the learning useful
- Precinct Plan – making buildings match where the University is heading and planning new clinical space for inter-professional care
- Work Force – looking at the shortages that exist and linking this to program enrollment; discussing student debt and health care education funding now and in the future; making training more efficient
- Knowledge Management – looking at technology and their use, such as evidence-based learning, distance education, and virtual reality

All task forces, including those from the AHC, issued recommendations last year to the President. A major report on these recommendations will be presented to the Regents in February 2007.

Three initiatives from the task forces are:

- Center for Interprofessional Education which will focus on areas such as quality patient care, policies, and health informatics. The Center will be looking at new models for care and helping to identify new care sites. These efforts will be extended to Duluth.
- AHC Facilities Task Force will work on more funding allocations and spaces for interactions and simulation centers, as well as virtual reality and increased laptop use.
- Branch Campus Task Force will be looking at education delivery issues from Duluth and Rochester.

Jeff Pinnow reminded members that the committee reviewed each of the task force reports and wrote a support statement. These reports are still on the web if members want to read them. He also supports the efforts to look at the distinction between emphasis on education versus research between the different campuses.

Q; Will simulation centers be available at Rochester and Duluth?

A: This will be a Twin Cities initiative, but Duluth students should have access through the hospital.

It was noted that most Duluth students do not know that these simulators exist.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Barbara Brandt said that the committee should discuss the scholarship of teaching and learning at an upcoming meeting. She would like student input on improving teaching and learning strategies, as well as the ties to promotion and tenure.

A member said that there is a parking shortage issue at Duluth for students who arrive on campus late after clinicals. The problem is that there are faculty and student contracts, and corresponding lots; faculty can park in either lot, but students cannot. The students have talked with Dean Ziegler, and five temporary permits have been issued, but there are 50 students who arrive at noon.

Barbara Brandt said that, unfortunately, these types of issues are not at the discretion of the AHC. She suggested that the students continue to work with the Duluth administration to see about more changes.

Another Duluth issue that is students are kicked out of classrooms over the lunch hour so faculty meetings can take place. When this happens, students need to remove all of their belongings, which is a hassle when students have class in the same room all day and would normally leave some of their items in the room.

Barbara Brandt said that this is an issue to negotiate with the faculty.

With no other business, Jeff Pinnow thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate