

AHC FINANCE & PLANNING COMMITTEE

November 2, 2000

Minutes of the Meeting

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 views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Dan Feeney (chair), Donna Brauer, Michael Speidel, Carol Wells, Beth Nunnally

REGRETS: Tim Church, Katie Dusenbery

[In these minutes: Publication of the Merit Review Questionnaire; Vice Presidential Organization Review; AHC's financial role]

Professor Feeney reported the Merit Questionnaire information had been ready to be publicized since September and that he had agreed with the arrangements made between Ms. Vickie Courtney and a member of the AHC Communications staff to publish an article in the October AHC News, after faculty were back. However, Professor Feeney discovered that it was not in the October publication and that an executive decision had been made in the AHC Communications office to postpone the article until November. Members registered their surprise that this decision had been made without consulting Professor Feeney. Members directed Vickie Courtney to move forward with sending out the Executive Summary to all AHC faculty, pointing them to the Senate web site for the comprehensive merit review information. The web site address is:

<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/ahcfp/questionnaire.html>.

Professor Feeney directed committee members' attention to the email message he sent regarding the discussion at the Senate Finance & Planning Committee meeting regarding the Capital Budgets. Two items drew questions, he said. One was the Northrop renovation and the other was the AHC Translational Research Building. The need for the AHC district to have such a comparatively "big ticket" building was questioned. He said that Mr. Pfitzenreuter and his colleagues along with Professor Feeney were able to provide a realistic perspective. It seems, he said, that the AHC is viewed as taking resources from the other units, but giving nothing in return. Members expressed concern that people may not understand the vastness of the AHC in terms of the number faculty and budgets involved. A relatively large percentage of both the number of faculty and the institutional budget are associated with the AHC. Committee members agreed that they need to discuss what kind of information would be worthwhile to publish so people can have a better understanding about the AHC's contributions. Committee members will discuss this issue at the November 16 meeting.

Next, committee members spent some time discussing the latest Academic Appointments document. Of particular interest and importance to committee members was the addition in the document that..."the collegiate plan must include a specific supplemental plan for any unit in which the number of FTE contract faculty positions (category 2A) plus the number of FTE academic professional positions with primary responsibility for teaching (category 4A) exceeds 25% of the FTE tenured and tenure-track faculty. Each supplemental plan should indicate the appropriate balance of faculty and academic staff responsibility, to include the levels and types of courses for which members of each group will be responsible. This supplemental plan must be developed in broad consultation with the leadership, faculty and academic staff of these units...."

Professor Feeney mentioned that Professor Fred Morrison drafted "Principles Regarding Instruction" which will be discussed at the November 16 Senate meeting. Vickie Courtney will email these principles to committee members.

Next, Beth Nunnally, CFO, presented a budget overview of the AHC shared and administrative units (FY 2001). Beth walked the group the various categories including generated revenues (gifts, ICR, fees, etc), AHC support and total revenue. The grid also shows academic salaries, civil service salaries, fringe benefits, total compensation costs, purchased professional services, supplies, communications, maintenance, equipment, and other (professional development, taxes,

utilities, loan pmts, etc) and total expense.

While discussing costs associated with buildings and maintenance, it was mentioned that there is a rumor regarding a several million cost underestimate for the Molecular Biology Building that has to do with the costs associated with such things as steam, water, electrical, etc. This will be verified and discussed later, if validated.

After going over the shared and administrative budget, Beth spent time going over FTE employment in the Office of the Senior Vice President's office. The areas include: SVPHS Office, Academic Support, Administrative Services, Regulatory Compliance, Academic Centers and Clinical. Questions regarding FTE's in the Cancer Center and Biomedical Graphics were raised. This led to a discussion about how faculty are counted if their time is shared or linked to another department and/or center.

Based on the information presented by Beth, committee members deducted that over a period of time the FTE's in the SVP office has shrunk. In the area of Academic Support, it appears that there is authorization for two more hires; Administrative Services is authorized to hire 54.1 FTE but currently has 43.0. According to the data, the numbers in the Centers appear to have changed dramatically but believed to be attributed to an FTE shift. Members discussed the business of shifting FTE's for some time.

Beth suggested the committee invite Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff, Terry Bock to an upcoming meeting. Committee members agreed that it would be helpful to invite the director for the Center for Bioinformatics as well.

A future agenda item will be a review of the "deficit accounts." Another issue the committee plan to address is to put together some understandable information as to what the AHC has in terms of income, sources of revenue, expenses and distribution compared to the rest of the University.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Vickie Courtney