

AHC Finance & Planning Committee

February 1, 2001

Minutes of the Meeting

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the AHC Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

PRESENT: Dan Feeney (chair), Donna Brauer, Carol Wells, Tim Church, Beth Nunnally

GUESTS: Mary Jo Kreitzer (Director, The Center for Spirituality and Healing)

Professor Feeney convened the meeting and welcomed Professor Mary Jo Kreitzer, Director for the Center for Spirituality and Healing. Professor Feeney began by explaining that the committee was meeting with the various center directors and non-collegiate areas that fall under the rubric of the AHC. He then turned the meeting over to Professor Kreitzer.

The Center for Spirituality and Healing

The Center for Spirituality and Healing was established in 1995 within the Academic Health Center. The Center's mission is to promote interdisciplinary education, research, and patient care that integrate biomedical, complimentary, cultural and spiritual aspects of care. The vision of the Center is to become a national model of integrative health care by emphasizing in a technologically advanced academic health center the: therapeutic effects of caring partnerships with patients; mind-body-spirit effects on health; power of personal beliefs and responsibility; diversity of valid healing therapies, as well as, the body's natural healing potential.

In 1996 Frank Cerra created the AHC Task Force on Complementary Care to examine the issues and trends in complementary, spiritual and cross-cultural care, to propose a vision and direction for the AHC in this area and to offer recommendations for curricula, research and patient care. A forty-five-member task force was convened representing the various schools within the AHC and community health care providers. The findings of the Task Force concluded there was a demand by consumers for complementary, spiritual and culturally appropriate care. The message was strong and consistent among consumers, providers, legislators, third party payers and health systems. The final report of the Task Force came out with a series of recommendations that were organized into education, research, service, clinical care and outreach.

About the Center:

- The staff of the Center is comprised of a director (Professor Kreitzer; two medical directors (responsible for work in the Medical School); and a director of development.
- There are 28 faculty members affiliated with the Center who teach, conduct research, publish and speak at regional, national and international meetings.
- The faculty involved with the Center have academic homes in the various schools/colleges within the AHC. The Center is not an academic home. There are some adjunct faculty who teach a particular course.
- The model is not to build a bigger and bigger hierarchy but more to create a stronger and stronger network.
- The Center has a community advisory board whose membership includes Associate Dean of Education Greg Vercellotti, Dean Marilyn Speedie, and Dean Sandra Edwardson. The advisory board provides guidance and constructive feedback.
- One of the focuses with respect to education is to integrate content on complementary cross-cultural spiritual aspects into existing health professional training programs.
- A 5-year NIH NCCAM \$1.6 million grant was awarded to the Center for the Integrative Health Curriculum Project.
- Through the NIH there is a National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine that was established in 1993 that was started with a very small budget. This year their budget is approximately \$60 million and is estimated to double within the next 5 years.
- One of the challenges of funding facing the Center is that there are more RFP's coming out of the NIH for opportunities to apply for funding than it has the ability to organize faculty to respond.
- The Center offers the nation's first interdisciplinary graduate minor in complementary Therapies and healing practices. Last spring approximately 60 students were enrolled. This fall over 137 students were enrolled. Students participating are coming from all areas across the University.
- The Center, in partnership with the Fairview Health System, established the Mind Body Spirit Clinic in 1999 at the

Fairview-University Hospital. A team of eleven University and community practitioners provides patient-centered care that integrates allopathic medicine with complementary therapies such as acupuncture, massage, spiritual direction, guided imagery, clinical hypnosis, and dietary supplements.

- The Center's public teaching includes three or four major conferences and lectureships every year, including the Tibetan Medicine conference in May and the Second Annual Integrative Pediatric Conference in June.
- The Center is actively engaged in continuing education programming with the medical and nursing schools. Center faculty have presented Ground Rounds in nearly every department of the medical school and also in every metro area hospital.

Professor Kreitzer emphasized the importance of the growth in the area of research. She sees one of the roles the Center plays is to convene faculty throughout the AHC to respond to RFP's.

With respect to funding, Professor Kreitzer informed committee members that the Center has not asked for an increase in funding for the past three years. In fiscal year 1999 the Center's allocation from the AHC was \$350,000. In terms of its income distribution this year, the allocation is about \$325,000 because of the fluctuation of the tobacco endowment. The Center's budget has grown slightly over \$1 million. Income comes from tuition, registration fees, program grants, NIH grants as well as philanthropy (this year philanthropy will constitute about 25% of the Center's budget). The expectation has been that the AHC would provide core financial support for the Center but it would have to be entrepreneurial and generate revenue streams to support any growth. Professor Kreitzer noted that it is essential that the AHC support the core because without that support it would be very difficult to convince others to invest in it.

In terms of how the program is evaluated, Professor Kreitzer said there are a number of feedback mechanisms from course and student evaluation, the deans on the advisory group as well as other members of the advisory board.

In response to how she might strengthen the Center's role in the AHC, she said they need more space because they have some new program initiatives coming up. The Center does not have its own classroom space. Because the AHC is a pioneer in the area of complementary approaches to therapies and healing practices it is faced with challenges in the areas of support for interdisciplinary efforts within the AHC, the need for research and the need to develop distance learning options.

At this point Professor Kreitzer asked if there were any questions. Committee members thanked her for her time and very informative presentation.

Next, committee members continued their discussion and review of the AHC/University budget comparison. The committee will spend the next couple of meetings discussing the budgets and then will prepare a report that will be distributed and discussed at the Senate Finance & Planning Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Vickie Courtney