

AHC F&P Committee  
September 20, 2001  
Minutes of the Meeting

**PRESENT:**

Dan Feeney (chair), Carol Wells, Katie Dusenbery, Tim Church, Beth Nunnally

**REGRETS:** Donna Brauer, T. Michael Speidel

**OTHERS:** Rob Super

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.

1. Research Animal Resources 5-Year Plan

Beth Nunnally and Rob Super presented the Research Animal Resources 5-year Plan to Committee members. A per diem rate comparison of peer public institutions showing that current RAR rates are well below the median in most categories as well as a copy of the announcement regarding FY03 RAR rates was distributed. Research Animal Resources (RAR) is a university-wide service program funded primarily by the Medical School (20%) and service fees (80%). However, in response to budget constraints, the Medical School will reduce its commitment to support RAR over the next three years, beginning in FY02.

The new rates will raise RAR closer to the middle of the peer institution but not into the upper percentiles. In FY02 and FY04 rates will be increased an average of 20% or more per annum to offset the

decreased financial support.

In addition, a new fee levied on animal orders will be instituted in early 2002.

The sense is that the combination of the rate increase and the opening of MCB (Molecular Cell Biology) will help even things out over the phasing out of the subsidy.

One member expressed concern about the impact this might have on certain investigators, especially during the transition period – specifically those investigators who have grants in place at the time and may not have the opportunity to submit a supplementary increase. Ms. Nunnally said she has also heard from faculty that it may not be an issue for some investigators because they may be able to run the same experiment with one or two fewer animals. A third response she has heard is where there are PI's to truly have an issue, the Medical School Dean's office is prepared to listen to those on a case by case basis.

With respect to running an experiment with one or two fewer animals, one of the committee members disagreed because a rationale is needed for use of each animal.

Mr. Super pointed out that 40% of the animals are used for NIH sponsored research; 2% other federal sponsored and 60% is non NIH sponsored.

Members then spent some time going over the rate structures of various institutions with respect to the particular categories of animals.