

**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER  
FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT, 2007-2008**

**MEMBERS**

Kathleen Krichbaum (Chair and member to 8/21/07, School of Nursing),  
Lois Heller (Chair after 8/21/07, Medical School-Duluth)  
Peter Davies (Vice-Chair, College of Veterinary Medicine)  
Paul Olin (Chair of Finance and Planning Sub-committee, Dental School)  
Susan Berry (Medical School-Twin Cities, Clinical representative),  
Colin Campbell (Medical School-Twin Cities, Basic Science representative as of 1/08),  
Brian Isetts (College of Pharmacy),  
Cheryl Robertson (replacing Kathleen Krichbaum 9/07, School of Nursing)  
Vernon Weckwerth (replacing George Maldonado 3/08, School of Public Health)

**ACTIONS RE RESPONSIBILITIES: STEERING, CONSULTATIVE AND EXECUTIVE**

**STEERING RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**1. To meet at least monthly to discuss matters of concern to the faculty.**

The AHC FCC met eleven times (once/month August 2007 to June 2008) for discussion of various activities and issues of concern to the AHC Faculty

**2. To initiate whatever studies it deems necessary and appropriate or to request such studies from the Senior Vice President (SVP) for Health Sciences or Administrative officers or from the subcommittees.** (This section includes descriptions of ongoing projects coordinated by the AHC-FCC)

- a. The AHC FCC worked with SVP Dr. Cerra, Assistant Vice President for Education, Barbara Brandt, and Assistant Vice President for Research, Mark Paller to coordinate the nomination deadlines, the advertising and soliciting of nominations, the monetary and crystal blocks and the induction ceremonies for the AHC Academies for Excellence.
- b. The AHC FCC conducted several sessions with Assistant Vice President Barbara Brandt, to develop the criteria for assessing nominations for the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.
- c. Nominations for the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning were solicited for an extended deadline of March 4, 2008. The AHC FCC reviewed the nominations on March 13 and made recommendations to a selection committee of outside experts. Drs. Cerra and Brandt confirmed the final selection of candidates: and the AHC-FCC participated in the formal induction ceremony in May 2008. Drs. Michael Brown (College of Pharmacy) and Nelson Rhodus (School of Dentistry) were formally inducted as Inaugural members of the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at a reception on May 20th 2008 by the Academic Health Center Wall of Honor in Moos Tower.
- d. Nominations for the Academy for Excellence in Research were solicited for a deadline of March 14, 2008. The AHC FCC reviewed the nomination on April 3 and made recommendations to the current members of the Academy (acting as the final selection panel) for consideration of acceptance in 2008. Four nominees were elected to the Academy for Excellence in Research: Henry H. Balfour (Department of Laboratory Medicine, Medical School), Matthew Mescher (Center for Immunology, Medical School), Michael Osterholm (Division of Environmental Health, School of Public Health) and Jean F. Wyman (Chair of Nursing Research, School of Nursing). The formal induction ceremony will be held in September 2008 at the AHC Wall of Honor in Moos Tower.
- e. The AHC-FCC sponsored its second all-AHC Faculty Forum entitled "Creating Successful Mentoring Relationships held on November 2, 2007 in McNamara Alumni Center. The keynote speaker was Linda Pololi, a nationally recognized expert on evidence-based approaches to effective mentoring. A panel of AHC faculty representing successful mentoring programs shared ideas, which was followed by lunch and table discussions facilitated by members of the AHC-FCC.
- f. Planning was begun for the third all-AHC Faculty Forum. After evaluating responses to a web-survey of AHC Faculty, it was tentatively decided to have an afternoon-only forum on Oct. 16th which would extend into the October "Third Thursday" faculty social event in Coffman Union. Topics for the forum were discussed and tentative focused on ways to promote interdisciplinary scholarship.
- g. With the help of the Assistant Vice President, Mary Koppel and the AHC Communications office, a monthly AHC-Faculty social event, "Third Thursdays" was initiated in October to take place from 4:30 to 6 pm in the Campus Club at Coffman Union with refreshments funded by Dr. Cerra's office. The first session was hosted by Dr. Cerra and the chair of the AHC-FCC and subsequent sessions were hosted by different AHC schools and their AHC-FCC representative. A concurrent event was held on the third Thursday of May in Duluth for the AHC medical and pharmacy faculty at that location. Attendance grew during the year and it was deemed a success by the attendees

**3. To advise the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences on procedures for making administrative appointments and to participate in the selection process.**

Although there were no specific activities related to *making* administrative appointments, the chair of the AHC-FCC is asked to participate in *review* of AHC administrators. To that end, Lois Heller participated on committee that conducted a regularly scheduled review of one of the AHC-school deans.

**4. To create and terminate all subcommittees of the AHC FCC.**

There was no activity in this area.

**CONSULTATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

**1. To meet with the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences monthly, or at least six times per year, to discuss issues or policies of the AHC and to represent the viewpoints of faculty.**

The AHC FCC met eight times this year in consultation with Senior Vice President Cerra to discuss issues and views of the faculty and policies of the AHC. Among the issues discussed were:

- a. Strategies for improving communications among the AHC Schools and with the AHC administration.
- b. Issues associated with the revised budget model, with particular emphasis on its potential lack of support for development of interdisciplinary activities.
- c. The new copyright policy and implication regarding intellectual property and in particular, electronic educational materials
- d. Implementation of the new mentoring policy and its impact on 7.12 statements.
- e. Development and implementation of the AHC Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, and its impact on faculty efforts in teaching.
- f. Activities of the Academic Advisory Committee
- g. Revisions of the tenure code and unit 7.12 statements (The AHC-FCC has been asked to review these statements but they have not yet been fully vetted by Dr. Cerra.)
- h. Potential problems associated with implementation of the new Enterprise Finance System on July 1, 2008.
- i. Concerns about the effect of the proposed Light Rail Transit line upon traffic patterns affecting University and AHC hospitals access.
- j. Questions about the university-wide standardization of individual unit databases
- k. Access to IERC teaching rooms by AHC students being too limited.
- l. Information on reports provided by Dr. Cerra on "Primary Care in Minnesota: An AHC Perspective" and "Educating Minnesota's Future Health Professional Workforce 2008 Update"
- m. Review of the AHC Practice Plan document (primarily to be done by the AHC F&P committee but with overview to be presented to the AHC FCC)

**2. To consult with the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences or Administrative officers on planning and on the annual budget and the biennial request.**

Periodic updates were presented by Dr. Cerra to the AHC-FCC regarding budgetary issues and the biennial request. (Most information regarding these issues was discussed by the AHC-F&P committee.) Tuition rates, state support, economic conditions, practice plans, external funding, research money and costs, ways to economize, cut back, reduce programs continue to be issues of concern.

**3. To receive notification of concerns that may require consultation with the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences or Administrative officers from any faculty member, academic professional, or student.**

- a. An issue concerning the university's (and AHC's) responsibility to provide research space following a catastrophic event was discussed after the collapse of the I-35W bridge in August 2007 made it impossible for an AHC faculty person to continue his (externally funded) work. The AHC-FCC chair was asked by the faculty person involved to involve the AHC-FCC in the discussion. (This was also addressed by the University FCC and many other University committees and administrators.) Alternate resources were identified.
- b. Based on potential need of large classroom space by the undergraduate programs in the University following demolition of a classroom building, an examination of such space utilization by the AHC schools was initiated. This was an issue first raised in the University FCC and the AHC FCC was asked to determine if large classroom space was available in AHC buildings. (Perhaps it is ... but with available time restricted to sub-optimal hours.) The underlying issue relates to the question of whether planning for classroom space should drive educational policy or vice versa. This discussion should continue.

**4. To receive recommendations of any faculty member, academic professional, or student who wishes to present a proposal to the AHC FCC and to refer or act upon such recommendations as it deems appropriate.**

Other than the two items listed above, no such formal requests or recommendations were made this year.

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**1. To serve as a deliberative body of the AHC Faculty Assembly on all major items it deems necessary and appropriate and to call meetings of the AHC Faculty Assembly as needed.**

Many of the items listed under the section on Steering Responsibilities can also be listed here and include all activities associated with the AHC Academies for Excellence, the AHC Faculty Forums, and the Third Thursday events.

Other than the annual meeting in January, no special meetings of the AHC Faculty Assembly were needed or called

2. **To act on behalf of the AHC Faculty Assembly when a decision is required and when it would not be possible to convene a special meeting of the AHC Faculty Assembly in a timely fashion.**

No action was necessary in this area.

3. **To report regularly on any matters which, in its judgment, should be brought to the attention of the AHC or specifically to the attention and consideration of the AHC Faculty Assembly.**

The AHC-FCC chair convened the annual meeting of the AHC Faculty Assembly on January 31, 2008 preceding the "State of the AHC" address by Dr. Cerra. She reported on the AHC FCC activities for the previous year and invited comments, concerns, complaints and complements to be given either at that time or to their individual representatives. A few emails with general comments resulted.

4. **To examine any action taken respecting the AHC by the Board of Regents, the central administration, or by another individual or body having any relationship with the University.**

a. The AHC-FCC Chair serves as ex-officio member of the University FCC. We (Drs. Kirchbaum and Heller) attended 20 of 27 meetings in 2007-08 (or had an AHC-FCC representative attend in our place). Our role on this committee is to represent the interests of the AHC and provide an avenue of communication between the faculty of the AHC and rest of the University. In addition, as representatives of this committee, we are asked to think and act broadly in the best interests of the University as a whole.

Among the many issues discussed were: revision of the tenure code, intellectual property and copyright policies, issues of metrics and measures of the University's progress, student feedback on classes, large classroom utilization and replacement of classroom space, tensions regarding administrative decisions driving educational policy, the proliferation of administrators, concern about disproportionate support of athletics and academic activities, the implementation of the Enterprise Finance Plan, shortcomings of the budget model, concern about public funding of higher education and rising tuitions.

b. The University FCC consults regularly with President Bruininks and SVPs Sullivan, Cerra and Jones on the strategic repositioning of the university in light of the goal to become one of the top three public research universities in the world, on the budget request to the legislature, and on recommendations from various committees and strategic positioning task forces.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Jane Heller, Ph.D  
Professor of Physiology  
University of Minnesota Medical School - Duluth  
AHC-FCC Chair, 2007-08