

AHC FCC COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, March 5, 2009

10:00 ~ 11:30 a.m.

Children's Rehab Center, Room 488

These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a committee meeting of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Delegation; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate or Delegation, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Present: Brian Isetts (chair), Vernon Weckwerth, Colin Campbell, Peter Davies, Steve Downing, Susan Berry, Cheryl Robertson, Paul Olin

February Minutes: The minutes for the AHC FCC meeting of February 5, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Academy of Excellence

Chair Isetts announced that the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning applicant dossiers are being distributed to external reviewers. He asked members to remind colleagues that the application deadline for the Academy for Excellence in Health Research is April 3, 2009.

AHC Year in Review Address

The committee discussed the AHC Year in Review, State of the AHC address by Dr. Frank Cerra, and AHC Faculty Assembly and Town Hall Meeting of 2/19/09. Members agreed that soliciting college faculty and staff for questions on survey monkey prior to the address was an effective way to be more organized during the questions and answers segment. There were 63 responses within one week and that helped to address the most asked questions in a timely fashion. There was concern that the address was not recorded due to technical difficulties but Professor Downing said it was broadcast in Duluth.

Professor Robertson said she was disappointed with the lack of specifics in Dr. Cerra's speech and didn't think she learned anything that she did not already know. Professor Weckwerth said that he received positive feedback about the breadth of information in the speech. He said that he thinks it is because committee members are privy to such information prior to public announcement that it is of no new news to them. Professor Berry said she thought it seemed very corporate and that it was a rather standard speech. Professor Campbell stated that he does not know how the University will find balance between being a service oriented public institution and the corporate-like administration of it but said that it is, in fact a business.

Budget

Members discussed their individual college's ability to cover their own operating costs. Robertson said that the push to make more and more money goes against her school's core mission in serving those in need. There is a structural problem in covering the costs of educating students with clinic-derived funds. Educating students is expensive and clinic money does not cover the costs. Berry said the largest structural conflict is covering operating costs without getting deeper into debt. She noted that the University cannot raise tuition sufficiently to cover the costs and her college cannot afford to expand the clinics' practices enough to cover them.

Consultation and Committee Direction

Members discussed their sense of a lack in consultation in regards to decisions being made for the University. Isetts reflected on the attendance of President Bruininks at the December 4, 2008 AHC FCC meeting and pointed out that even though the president asked for members' input, many decisions were already made prior to that meeting. It is not certain that faculty input has any bearing on the results of the decisions being made by the University and it may be to clarify the AHC-FCC's role as a consultative committee, as well as the committee's purpose. Isetts wants committee members to consider what they think the role of the committee is, and the level of responsibility that the Committee has to the AHC community in regards to accountability and transparency. It was noted that the committee currently serves as a vehicle to distribute distressing news to their constituents handed down from administration without having had any contribution to the decisions that were made affecting their constituents.

For the March 18, 2009 AHC FCC meeting with Dr. Cerra, there was consensus on the following items for discussion at the meeting:

- What level of support does administration expect from the AHC FCC?
- What are the centralized functions of the AHC FCC?
- What are the committees responsibilities and to whom?
- What level of accountability does the AHC FCC have?

- What is the committee's direction as it moves forward?

Isetts wants the committee to be proactive in defining the AHC-FCC's purpose. If they are not taking an actual consultative role, can they still exist as a faculty consultative committee in alignment with trust and transparency?

Chair Isetts adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Lisa Towry
University Senate Office