

AHC Finance and Planning Meeting

April 21, 2009

4:30 ~ 6:00

Children's Rehab Center, room 406

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: Paul Olin (chair), Brian Van Ness

Regrets: Yusuf Abul-Hajj, Helen Hansen, David Lee, Beth Nunnally,

Absent: John Connett

Chair Olin presented three hand-outs; the TCF Bank Stadium financing plan, University expenditures by object and function code and a University budget planning outline for fiscal year 2010~2011. Olin noted that the stadium budget is on track. Olin said the budget categories used in the expenditure report are used at other Universities across the country in order to compare but not all categories are identical within the university system, so there are flaws. He said that there is a sustainability committee that has been created to search out plausible money-saving tactics for the University such as printing on both sides of paper, turning lights off when not in use, putting computers on a outlet strip and turning them off at night, etc.

Olin said that there has not been any fresh news on the budget. He said there is a concern about the last two years of the current five-year proposal because there will no longer be any stimulus funds and the University will be operating at a considerably lower budget than currently. There is still a 5% to 8% budget cut proposal for most if not all units. It is likely that jobs will be cut and positions left by retirement may go unfilled.

Professor Van Ness raised the issue of increasing fringe rates causing problems for working graduate students. Grants that pay for graduate students are not able to cover the rapidly increasing fringe benefits of their appointments. Olin said he would look into the disparity in the fringe rates.

Van Ness asked about the charge for the AHC Finance and Planning Subcommittee. Olin informed him that the committee is a subcommittee of the AHC FCC, which acts in an advisory capacity to Dr. Frank Cerra. Olin stated that he would like to have a quorum and engage in more financial solutions for the AHC and the University as a whole. He does not want to wait until it is too late for input on decisions being made, which is how it has been going as of late. Olin said he would provide Van Ness with the charge of the subcommittee, but he should be aware that it is not doing as much as the charge indicates it should be. He will continue to work towards getting the committee in a more active role in matters related to the AHC.

Without further discussion, Chair Olin adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Lisa Towry
University Senate Office