

[In these minutes:]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2009

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

488 CHILD REHAB CENTER

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Megan Witucki, Chair, (Pharmacy-Twin Cities), Ganesh Babulal (Occupational Therapy), Robb Garni (Dentistry), Jennifer Landwehr (Medical School-Duluth), Meredith Lukasek (Nursing-Twin Cities), Karen Myren (Medical School-4th Year), Michelle Rivera (Veterinary Medicine), Julie Ann Schmitz (Public Health), Daniel Stein (Medical School-Twin Cities), Kimberly Weber (Clinical Lab Sciences).

REGRETS: Jared Bueche (Physical Therapy), Arinze Okere (Pharmacy-Duluth), Kelsey Scanlon (Nursing-Rochester).

GUESTS: Jim Beattie, Gina Kundan, Steven Llewellyn, Heather Mead, Erin Sperling, and Linda Watson.

1. UPDATES

Megan Witucki said that presentations were made to the Deans and the Associate Deans for Education. Both groups were receptive to the information in the presentation. The disability insurance group has chosen Guardian as the provider and coverage will be extended to all the programs.

2. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT STUDY SPACE

Megan Witucki said that when the presentations were made, representatives from the Biomedical Library and CHIP were present. Both groups felt that there was enough study space, but that students did not know where these areas were located. They asked to meet with the committee to discuss how best to inform students. She then introduced Linda Watson, Jim Beattie, and Steve Llewellyn from the Biomedical Libraries and Gina Kundan and Heather Mead from CHIP.

Linda Watson asked members for the issues that they see students having with the current library arrangements. Members made the following list of issues:

- Many students look for space during the lunch hour
- Students want quiet space
- Groups should not be allowed to use quiet space for their collaborative work
- Students are used to heading to the same spot to study and do not know where else to go
- There are many non-AHC students using AHC space
- Space should be limited to AHC student during finals
- List of alternate space should be published prior to finals
- If the libraries and study space are mentioned during orientations, most students do not remember because they are not using it at that time. Orientation should take place within the content of a course.
- Student do not know that full-text of articles is not always available on the web
- When students are forced to go to the library, they do not know how to use it.

Linda Watson mentioned that faculty do not know how to use the libraries either. She then said that each class has a library liaison, but it appears that this is not widely known. These representatives should be introduced during orientations. She stated that students should ask for time during orientations for a short introduction to the library and its representative.

Gina Kundan then said that CHIP is more than a physical space. It tries to provide interprofessional opportunities for students through activities such as lunch lectures and case competitions. CHIP is introduced to student through orientations or tours. For the Dental School, they hold a treasure hunt in CHIP to introduce it to new students. Communication is done through emails and a monthly newsletter to students who have asked to receive it. CHIP's operations are a student-driven process with meetings the first Wednesday of each month from 5:00-6:00 pm.

Members then made the following comments regarding CHIP:

- Students look forward to the interprofessional dinner, but for this year, Occupational Therapy students did not know about it until the day before due to the class representatives not attending CHIP meetings
- CHIP representatives need to communicate to their classmates
- Third and fourth-year Medical School students, especially those from Duluth, feel disconnected from CHIP because they do not receive its emails
- Reminders should be sent to each college about the use of CHIP space and its activities
- More interactions are needed between Medical School and Nursing students

Q: What is the best way to communicate with students?

A: Students are more likely to read an informal email from a classmate than a more stylized one from a central unit. The subject line is important since most students do not read anything else before deciding to keep or delete.

Erin Sperling noted that there is a link to student study space on the AHC website under classroom services.

3. DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESTRUCTURING IN THE AHC

Karen Myren explained a recent announcement that Dr. Cerra's position, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, will be merged with the Dean of the Medical School, as is the set-up for most other institutions. This change will merge two large positions so duties will be restructured and some responsibilities will be delegated to other positions. If approved by the Regents, the changes will start July 1. Concerns about this structure were addressed as a meeting last week. For the Medical School, the concern is that Dr. Cerra will not have enough time to manage the college. For the other colleges in the AHC, the concern is that this one position will be biased towards the Medical School. Dr. Cerra stated that he does not see either of these options taking place. Instead, the arrangement will increase collaboration.

Q: How was the decision made?

A: The subject was discussed many times and the possibility was investigated. By uniting these positions and their activities, the AHC will save \$2 million per year and increase administrative efficiency.

Q: Were students interviewed?

A: No.

Members noted that they has not heard any issues with this change from their classmates, so there was no reason for the committee to devote more time to the topic.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

With no other business, Megan Witucki thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate