

[In these minutes: Disability Insurance RFP]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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), Jared Bueche (Physical Therapy), Jennifer Landwehr (Medical School-Duluth), Arinze Okere (Pharmacy-Duluth), Meghan Mason (Public Health), Daniel Stein (Medical School-Twin Cities), Kimberly Weber (Clinical Lab Sciences).

REGRETS: Ganesh Babulal (Occupational Therapy), Robb Garni (Dentistry), Meredith Lukasek (Nursing-Twin Cities), Karen Myren (Medical School-4th Year), Michelle Rivera (Veterinary Medicine),

GUESTS: Thomas Bilder, Sue Jackson, and Erin Sperling.

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Megan Witucki announced that she has been contacted by Jim Beattie from University Libraries about a member of the committee serving as a representative on a planning committee he is organizing. The first meeting is Monday, May 18 from 3:15-4:35. She will have Becky Hippert forward the email to members. If someone is interested, please reply to Becky's message.

2. DISCUSSION OF STUDENT DISABILITY INSURANCE RFP

Sue Jackson began by announcing that a Student Health Benefit Plan Consultation Committee is being assembled to provide input on plan designs and modifications for all student health plans across the University. She would like to ask for members from this committee to be part of these quarterly meetings. The only requirement is that members need to currently have or been part of a student health plan at the University. Interested members should email her at: sjackson@bhs.umn.edu.

She then turned to the disability insurance RFP and extended her thanks to Megan Witucki for pushing Guardian to include all students in the AHC programs under its coverage. The policy, as described in the handout, is better than what was initially expected or what was offered by other providers. The plan will cover Public Health and Allied Health students, even though they were not part of the initial package.

She expressed her approval with Guardian as the provider since they are willing to provide information and support to students, individually or through orientations and lunch-hour meetings, and will guarantee post-graduation coverage to students when the industry will reject up to 30 percent when trying to buy an individual policy. Students will need to apply for conversion within 30 days of graduation to be eligible under the plan.

Sue Jackson said that this is the first contract in the United States for long-term disability coverage for all programs within an academic health center. Loan repayment is also uncommon, but it was included. She noted that the items in red were the coverage added after the initial RFP.

She stated that the rate will be \$39.78 per semester and will be guaranteed for three-years. The contract with Guardian will cover the first two years, and Boynton will guarantee the price for the third year. Another RFP will not be needed for five years.

The proposal will be presented to the Regents in May with coverage starting September 1 for all current students at that time.

Q: Clinical Lab Sciences is one of the Allied Health programs, but it is not on the handout. Will coverage be provided to these students?

A: Boynton was not aware of this program, but will talk to Guardian about their inclusion.

Q: Are dual degree students covered while they are not active in their AHC program?

A: Yes.

Q: Is coverage mandatory for AHC students?

A: Yes.

Thomas Bilder said that some of the schools are offered group trust conversion which is a way to split the risk among more people being covered since lower income professions tend to generate higher claim risk. Group trust plans also have a few less benefits as the plans offered to other schools.

Q: For students to take advantage of group trust conversion, do a minimum number of students need to participate?

A: No. It is still an individual election.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

Megan Witucki then asked that members talk with their student boards about next year's representatives. If new members are elected/appointed, they are welcome to attend the April meeting with the current representative. With no further business, she thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate