

[In these minutes: 2009 – 2010 AHC SCC Election of Chair and Vice Chair, Issues from 2008 – 2009, Welcome from Dr. Barbara Brandt and an Update on Long-Term Disability Insurance, Concerns about the Academic Health Center Student Health Benefit Plan (AHC SHBP), Expand AHC-SCC Membership, Interprofessional Education]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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: Paul Anagale (Medical School), Ganesh Babulal (Occupational Therapy), Brandon Burk (Pharmacy-Duluth), Robb Garni (Dentistry), Becky Klismet (Pharmacy), Meghan Mason (Public Health), Eden Sonn (Nursing-Rochester), Daniel Stein (Medical School-Twin Cities), Paul Syverson (Veterinary Medicine), Andy Wicks (Physical Therapy)

REGRETS: Cynthia Kasak (Clinical Lab Sciences), Meredith Lukasek (Nursing), Tanya Wilber (Dental Hygiene)

OTHERS ATTENDING: Barbara Brandt, assistant vice president, Academic Health Center Education Administration, Brianne Keeney, Charlie Billington, MD/PhD, executive vice president, COGS

GUESTS: Ken Dodd and Erik Scharrer

- I). Given an AHC-SCC chair had not yet been elected for the 2009 – 2010 academic year, Becky Hippert, Senate staff, convened the meeting, welcomed those present, and called for introductions.
- II). The committee unanimously elected Daniel Stein as AHC-SCC chair for the 2009 – 2010 academic year and Eden Sonn as vice chair.
- III). Mr. Stein asked members to take a few minutes to review the major topics from the 2008 – 2009 academic year. The major topics discussed last year included:
- Long-term disability insurance
 - Presentation to AHC deans
 - Interprofessional education
 - Student study space and use of Library services
- IV). Dr. Barbara Brandt, assistant vice president, AHC Education Administration, thanked members for serving, and reminded them that they have the power to raise issues, get them vetted and resolved. For example, the long-term disability insurance initiative last year was a student driven initiative. She then provided background information on how Guardian Life Insurance came to be selected as the long-term disability insurance vendor.

Dr. Brandt went on to inform the committee about a PeopleSoft glitch that occurred while coverage was being implemented. She noted that rather than only billing AHC professional students for this coverage, graduate students in AHC schools were also billed. Boynton Health Service (hereafter BHS) is now working with the Graduate School to take graduate students off this policy, and correct the mistake.

V). Mr. Stein welcomed Ken Dodd and Erik Scharrer who requested to come before the committee to share their concerns related to the Academic Health Center Student Health Benefit Plan (AHC SHBP). According to Mr. Scharrer, one issue related to the AHC SHBP is its arbitrary and inconsistent waiver system. The AHC SHBP needs to have a more systematic waiver process, and, just as importantly, a system that is more lenient in terms of who can get coverage waived. Currently, only students with employer-sponsored coverage, or are covered by the University-sponsored Graduate Assistant Health Plan or Minnesota Care are allowed to waive coverage. Also, another issue is the lack of choice of health plans. Students should be able to choose from plans with varying coverage levels; for many students the

cost of the AHC SHBP plan is an issue. In closing, Erik Scharrer stated that he and Ken Dodd developed a survey they would like to administer to professional students in all programs to get their feedback on the AHC SHBP.

Dr. Brandt thanked Mr. Dodd and Mr. Scharrer for bringing this issue forward, and stated it is a topic that Dr. Cerra would be interested in engaging in with the committee. She reminded the committee that unlike graduate assistants who are University employees with health insurance coverage, AHC students who are training outside the University do not receive health insurance coverage from the organizations they are working for. A fair number of professional students have accidents on the job, and of particular concern are needle sticks.

Regarding the AHC SHBP, Dr. Brandt noted that BHS administers this policy and not the AHC. She agreed that the waiver issue is getting bigger and bigger. Unfortunately, BHS does not have the staff to review all the health insurance policies of incoming students to determine whether they have adequate coverage. She added she was glad to hear that Mr. Dodd and Mr. Scharrer have been working with Sue Jackson at BHS on the issue. In terms of the survey, Dr. Brandt suggested using a more formal approach for designing and administering the survey.

A member supported the idea of the AHC having more health insurance options for students. Another member stated there should be at least one plan option where students do not have to come to the Twin Cities for care because currently University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR) students need to travel to the Twin Cities to get medical services. Dr. Brandt stated it was not true and suggested the student contact Gale Shea, director, Office of Student and Career Advancement Services - School of Nursing: Rochester, to get information about accessing medical services in the Rochester area. She added if a student has an accident such as a needle stick, while they can get care anywhere, they need to report the incident to BHS, similar to how employees report work-related injuries to their employers. Dr. Brandt noted that the AHC SHBP plan is a very good policy, which has a rare feature, portability, and that it covers students virtually anywhere in the world (not just the Twin Cities).

Next, Mr. Scharrer distributed an insurance plan comparison handout. He noted plan cost is a significant issue for many students. Dr. Brandt suggested in addition to inviting Dr. Cerra to the next meeting to continue this discussion, that Sue Jackson and Duncan Okello from BHS also be invited to provide information about the plan and to provide an update on the long-term disability insurance situation. In preparation for the November meeting, Mr. Scharrer requested that detailed information related to the total number of waiver requests, number of waivers granted, number of waivers denied, appeals, etc. be distributed to the committee. Dr. Brandt volunteered to help ensure this information is distributed prior to the November meeting.

Charlie Billington, MD/PhD, executive vice president, COGS, stated the discussion should also include offering the AHC SHBP plan to graduate students in AHC schools. There is a fair amount of interest on the part of some graduate students to participate in the plan.

It was also noted there is a group of people who are evaluating the undergraduate waiver system to determine its efficiency. A request was made that the AHC SHBP waiver system be evaluated in conjunction with the undergraduate evaluation being conducted.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Dr. Brandt indicated she would brief Dr. Cerra on the AHC SHBP issues discussed today, and that the AHC deans would also be briefed. She added that Public Health has experts who work with surveys, and she will ask Dr. Cerra to have them work with Mr. Dodd and Mr. Scharrer to finesse the survey in an effort to collect the most accurate and meaningful data possible concerning the AHC SHBP.

VI). The next agenda item, stated Mr. Stein, is to solicit members' opinions about whether the committee should expand its membership to include programs that are currently not represented on the AHC-SCC. These programs include:

1. Clinical Lab Sciences – Rochester
2. Occupational Therapy – Rochester
3. Dental Therapy

Members unanimously agreed that these programs should be represented on the committee. In terms of next steps, this bylaw amendment will go to the Student Senate for approval at their December 3rd meeting.

Regarding membership, a member asked whether his program could send his successor to the meeting once the person has been identified so when he is off the committee there is more continuity in terms of the new person being familiar with the

issues, etc. Ms. Hippert stated that the meetings are open to the public, and, therefore, non-members are welcome. Non-members, however, are asked to sit around the perimeter of the room because the chairs around the table are reserved for members.

Another issue voiced was that there is a lack of knowledge about the committee and what it does. Dr. Brandt acknowledged this concern and stated that an email would be sent out to the AHC deans and associate deans to reinforce the importance of getting the word out to their students about the committee.

VII). Mr. Stein asked if members had other business they wished to discuss. One member expressed an interest in wanting to learn more about what is being planned for interprofessional education. Dr. Brandt reported that Associate Dean Judith Buchanan would be assuming responsibility for the curricula and two areas of concentration have been mapped out:

1. Ethics
2. Teamwork

Starting in 2010 – 2011 there are plans to identify eight days where the AHC programs will have interprofessional programming, Dr. Brandt stated. She added that time has been a barrier when it comes to scheduling interprofessional education curricula, and extensive planning will be required. She suggested inviting Associate Dean Buchanan to the December meeting to provide the committee with more details on what is being planned for interprofessional education.

A member asked whether students in 4-year programs would be required to take interprofessional education during all 4 years of their program. Dr. Brandt stated that this will likely be the case, and logistically the AHC needs to make it happen.

VIII). Hearing no further business, Mr. Stein adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate