

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

March 11, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinical Faculty Update, Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Update, AHC-FCC Faculty Assembly, *Dialogue of the Day* for March 25 Meeting, AHC-FCC Meeting with President Bruininks Rescheduled for April 8, Next Steps for AHC-FCC Bylaw Revision, Nominations for 2010 – 2011 AHC Chair, Academy for Excellence in Health Research Deadline April 12, Third Thursday Reminder/Update]

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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.

Present: Peter Davies (chair pro tem), Susan Berry, Colin Campbell, Stephen Downing, Vernon Weckwerth

Regrets: Brian Isetts (chair), Paul Olin, Cheryl Robertson

Others attending: Brianne Keeney, academy and policy analyst, Academic Health Center Office of Education

I). Professor Davies called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present.

II). Professor Davies welcomed Brianne Keeney, academy and policy analyst, Academic Health Center Office of Education, who was invited to provide an update on the AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinical Faculty, and the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award.

Ms. Keeney began by reporting that the AHC Task Force on the Scholarship of Clinical Faculty has been established, and is being co-chaired by Dr. Barbara Brandt and Professor Susan Berry. An expected outcome of the task force is that it will issue a recommendation on a “7.12-like” statement that will outline the processes for departments, schools and the AHC to use when promoting clinical faculty. The task force is expected to convene in early April and finish its work in relatively short order.

Professor Berry noted that preliminary task force meetings are taking place to identify what needs to be accomplished. In Professor Berry’s opinion, it is critical that the task force do a thorough job given the gaps in how clinical faculty are appreciated, recognized and promoted in the AHC.

III). Members unanimously approved the February 11, 2010 minutes.

In terms of the meeting notes from the February 24, 2010 AHC-FCC meeting with Dr. Cerra, Professor Colin Campbell requested that the segment of the minutes that articulate the AHC mission as educating and training the next generation of health care providers be expanded to reflect the AHC’s entire mission, which also includes discovering and delivering new preventions, treatments, and cures that improve the health of families and communities, and enhancing Minnesota’s bioscience industries and growing the state’s economy. Members concurred.

IV). Professor Davies turned again to Ms. Keeney and asked her to provide an update on the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Ms. Keeney announced that four nominations were received by the March 1, 2010 deadline. As background information, she noted that the award was established in 2008, and, to date, there are six Academy for Excellence inductees. Up to four faculty members can be inducted into the AHC Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning each year. Inductees receive a \$10,000 annual augmentation for five consecutive years and a lifetime membership in the Academy. Ms. Keeney stated that nominees cannot self-nominate. She then turned members’ attention to a handout that outlined the evaluation criteria: (<http://www.ahceducation.umn.edu/academy/summary/home.html>).

At the conclusion of Ms. Keeney’s update, Professor Davies requested the committee discuss and decide:

- a. Should the AHC-FCC review the dossiers to verify eligibility of each candidate before advancing the nominations to the review committee?

- b. Should the AHC-FCC decide whether the candidates meet the eligibility criteria?
- c. Should the current Academy for Excellence inductees serve as the review committee?
- d. Should the review committee include individuals from outside the University?

Members discussed whether it would be too burdensome on the current Academy for Excellence inductees to serve as the review committee given workload issues and the fact there are only six of them. Additionally, the committee discussed the importance of ensuring that whatever the composition of the review committee that it needed to have the depth and expertise to adequately review the nominations. Members agreed that the review committee should be as expert in honoring expertise as possible.

Following a circumspect discussion, Professor Berry outlined two options:

1. Use the same model that has been used up until now, which entails having the review committee comprised of individuals both from inside and outside the University. Use this model for another year until the pool of Academy for Excellence inductees is larger.
2. Ask the current Academy for Excellence inductees for their opinions on the composition of the review committee and whether they would be able to serve in this capacity.

Regardless of the composition of the review committee in terms of whether members are internal or external to the University, noted Professor Campbell, there needs to be a minimum of four people serving on the committee. Professor Campbell then made a motion recommending that the current Academy of Excellence inductees be invited to serve on the review committee. Based on their availability to do so will then determine whether additional people from outside the University will need to be invited to serve on the committee. Members unanimously endorsed this motion.

In terms of whether the AHC-FCC should review the dossiers, members agreed that as long as the nomination packets are complete, they should be forwarded on to the review committee. It should not be the role of the AHC-FCC to make judgments about which nominees are qualified; instead, this is the responsibility of the review committee. Ms. Keeney noted that she and Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, have looked through the nominations to verify they are complete.

The AHC-FCC will contact current Academy for Excellence members and ask if they are willing to serve as reviewers. Dr. Brandt and Ms. Keeney will be copied on this correspondence. Professor Berry added that it is important that a formal process for identifying members to serve on the review committee needs to be established. Given the fact the pool of Academy members continues to grow, soon there should be sufficient numbers so that Academy members can serve as the selection committee without having to involve external reviewers.

Professor Davies thanked Ms. Keeney for the updates. He invited her to stay and sit in on the remainder of the meeting, but she declined.

Moving on, Professor Berry reported receiving a complaint concerning the eligibility process for nominating an individual for the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning award. Details were shared with the committee who then discussed the complaint received from a faculty member about a dossier being withdrawn from consideration. It appears that a nominator and/or the faculty member were discouraged from submitting a dossier for consideration in the Academy for Excellence in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning within one of the AHC schools/colleges. Further investigation by the AHC-FCC to understand the circumstances of this complaint within the specific AHC school/college may be warranted. This incident begs the question of whether more nominations would have been received had nominators not been discouraged from submitting nominations. It was also noted that the AHC-FCC has not relinquished its screening duties because it elected to forward all four nominations this year to the review committee. The AHC-FCC has verified the completeness of the four nomination packets it received this year, and has decided to forward all the nominations to the review committee for further analysis.

Upon further discussion, members agreed that Associate Vice President Brandt needed to be notified about the complaint as the nomination process may be flawed if there are nominations that do not make it to the AHC-FCC because a nominator has been discouraged from submitting a nomination. It is ultimately the role of the AHC-FCC, as the screening body, to decide what constitutes a scholar for the purposes of this award. Nominations should not be discouraged. Professor Davies volunteered to work with Chair Isetts to discuss this issue with Dr. Brandt in order to bring it to the forefront.

V). Professor Davies introduced the next agenda item, the annual AHC-FCC Faculty Assembly. He noted that this year's topic is "*Transparency in the University's Response to the New Economic Normal.*" The purpose of this event will be to

receive reports from each of the AHC schools on the proceedings of their Blue Ribbon Committees and Town Hall meetings, including fairly detailed budget presentations. There will also be a panel forum discussion. The question before the committee, noted Professor Davies, is whether the Faculty Assembly should be held in conjunction with Dr. Cerra's State of the AHC address at the end of May or whether it should be held separately, e.g., Tuesday, April 27 from 2:00 – 4:00.

Professor Berry stated that she has never heard that the Medical School has a Blue Ribbon Committee, or, if they do, maybe it is called something different. This needs to be clarified. Professor Campbell also commented that he has not heard about a Medical School Blue Ribbon Committee. He volunteered to email Dr. Paller to inquire about this body, and, assuming it exists, find out what it is called and who is serving on it. Professor Weckwerth reminded members that the Blue Ribbon Committees were discussed at the committee's meeting with Dr. Cerra on February 24th.

Members concurred that the Faculty Assembly should be held separate from and prior to the State of the AHC address.

VI). Professor Davies asked members for their input concerning the selection of the *Dialogue of the Day* topic for the Thursday, March 25 meeting with Dr. Cerra. Professor Davies cited two possible ideas:

1. The role of the AHC-FCC in succession planning for Dr. Cerra's position.
2. The agenda for the AHC Faculty Assembly.

Members then began discussing the letter from Professor James Carey, vice chair, Medical School FAC, to Dr. Cerra challenging the succession planning process and recommending that the search for a replacement for Dr. Cerra be put on hold while discussions are still taking place about how the AHC will be structured. Members agreed they would like to see the proposal Professor Carey is recommending in order to explicate it. This should be a point of discussion with Dr. Cerra at the March 25th meeting. What would be Dr. Cerra's argument for keeping the position as it exists now versus changing it? Professor Campbell stated that, in his opinion, it would make more sense to have the new president hire the new vice president of the AHC, assuming this is the structure that will go forward.

VII). Professor Davies announced that the AHC-FCC meeting with President Bruininks has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 8th in 238 Morrill Hall. The committee will meet with President Bruininks from 10:00 – 11:00 and then conduct other committee business from 11:00 – 12:00. Copies of the questions the committee plans to ask President Bruininks were distributed. Professor Berry verified with Ms. Dempsey that President Bruininks would receive these questions ahead of time.

VIII). Professor Davies reported that Professor Berry will go before the Faculty Senate on April 1 to introduce the change in the AHC-FCC bylaws. As a reminder, he noted that the committee unanimously passed a motion at its February 11th meeting to revise its charge by including a statement that would be analogous to the statement in the AHC-SCC charge that stipulates the chairs of the AHC-FCC and AHC-SCC will meet each semester to discuss issues of concern to both faculty and students. Professor Berry commented that she does not anticipate this will be a very controversial item for the Faculty Senate.

IX). Professor Davies turned members' attention to the next agenda item, open nominations for the election of the 2010 – 2011 AHC-FCC chair. Professor Berry noted that given her work commitments, she would have to decline any nomination to serve as chair. She reminded members to keep in mind that both Professor Olin and Professor Robertson are running to serve on the FCC and proposed whoever is not selected be nominated to chair the AHC-FCC. Professor Campbell agreed to ask Professor Olin if he would be willing to be nominated, and, likewise, Professor Berry agreed to talk with Professor Robertson. Professor Berry stated that both candidates would do an excellent job. Professor Campbell concurred and stated that it will be important to verify with both of them that they are interested in this seat.

Professor Campbell informed the committee that the Medical School FCC has re-appointed him to another 3-year term on AHC-FCC. With that said, Professor Berry stated that she believes Professor Campbell would also make a good chair. She suggested that Professor Campbell, Professor Robertson and Professor Olin get together to discuss, which of the three would have the time and desire to take on this responsibility. She stressed the importance of continuity in these volatile times.

Neither Professor Downing nor Professor Weckwerth voiced an interest in being nominated to chair the committee for the

2010 – 2011 academic year.

Alternatively, the suggestion was made to consider having a vice chair who could serve as backup to the chair. Professor Davies stated that in many respects he served as vice chair for Professor Isetts when he was unable to attend a meeting.

X). Given that Professor Olin sent his regrets for today's meeting, noted Professor Davies, the AHC-FCC Subcommittee on Finance and Planning report will be deferred to the April 8th meeting.

XI). Professor Davies announced that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Academy for Excellence in Health Research award is Monday, April 12th. This agenda item is for information only.

XII). Professor Davies reminded members that the next Third Thursday is March 18th where Professor Gunda Georg, director, Center for Drug Design in the Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Development, will present. AHC-FCC members were encouraged to attend. He added that a final Third Thursday reception for the 2009 – 2010 academic year will be held on April 15th.

XIII). Professor Davies asked members whether they had any items of new business. Hearing none, Professor Davies thanked members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate