

AHC FACULTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

June 9, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: AHC FCC Fall/Spring Forum, Status of AHC Finance & Planning Committee, Conflict of Interest, Miscellaneous Announcements]

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: Colin Campbell, (chair), Cynthia Gross, George Maldonado, Paul Olin, Ned Patterson, Cheryl Robertson

Regrets: Susan Berry, Stephen Downing

Others attending: Vernon Weckwerth

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

II). The committee unanimously approved the May 12, 2010 minutes.

III). Professor Campbell noted that earlier this spring the committee discussed hosting a fall forum and inviting President Kaler. He then asked the committee for their thoughts/opinions. Professor Weckwerth stated that he would like to hear from President Kaler about his vision for the Academic Health Center (AHC), the timing of which would be appropriate because the Executive Steering Group would have issued its report/findings by then. The committee also suggested inviting Drs. Friedman and Mulcahy as the co-chairs of the Executive Steering Group and Provost Sullivan and/or the provost-designate, if appointed. Professor Campbell requested Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, to find out the status of the provostal search and report back to the committee.

To conclude, Professor Campbell stated that members who are not present today will be contacted to get their input and make sure they are on board. Assuming everyone agrees, this will be put on the June 23 agenda when the committee meets with Dr. Friedman to make sure he is also supportive.

IV). Professor Campbell turned to Professor Olin for the next agenda item, a discussion on whether the AHC Finance & Planning (AHC F&P) Committee should be reconstituted and its duties and responsibilities be absorbed into the AHC FCC. Professor Olin stated that while the AHC F&P has a charge (<http://www1.umn.edu/usenate/charges/ahcfpch.html>), the committee has not been effectively used by the administration. Besides finishing the practice plan rationale like the administration requested, it really has not been asked to do anything else, or consulted

with by senior administration. A couple years ago the committee heard from each AHC school's budget person about how their budgets are developed, etc., which was very interesting/informative, but beyond that the committee has not had a lot of business to attend to. Having said this, noted Professor Olin, unless Dr. Friedman plans to use the committee as outlined in its charter then there is simply no point in having a separate subcommittee. Instead, the work of the AHC F&P Committee can be taken over by the AHC FCC. While the AHC F&P Committee is charged to advise senior administration on finance and planning matters, it has not been used in this fashion. A reason for retaining the AHC finance and planning oversight, however, is because it gives the AHC FCC an ex-officio seat on the Senate Finance & Planning Committee (SCFP). Professor Olin stated that he would contact Dr. Friedman prior to the June 23rd meeting and let him know that this will be one of the items on the agenda, and provide him with any background information to familiarize him with the issue.

Professor Campbell stated that this discussion fits perfectly into what Professor Gross has suggested on more than one occasion, which is to re-establish the role of the AHC FCC and its subcommittee, the AHC F&P Committee. Professor Gross noted that she feels strongly that the committee should hold a forum but does not necessarily agree that senior administration needs to be supportive of the topic. A role of the AHC FCC is to bring faculty issues to the attention of senior administration. Rather than the committee asking permission to go ahead with the topic, senior administration should be informed about the topic and they can then decide whether they are interested in presenting on the topic and being part of the larger discussion, or not. If not, the forum can still be held but the format will just be different.

V). Professor Campbell asked if members had any other business they wanted to raise before the meeting adjourned. Professor Gross asked about the status of the AHC Conflict of Interest (COI) Committee because she heard anecdotally that it was being disbanded. Professor Olin explained that there are three distinct COI committees, AHC, institutional, and provostal and that the AHC COI committee was not being disbanded.

Members of the committee then spent a few minutes talking informally about the conflict of interest policy and the confusion surrounding it.

VI). Before adjourning, Professor Campbell reminded the committee about next year's meeting schedule. Based on a poll that was conducted to find a time when a majority of members would be available to meet, a decision has been made that the committee will meet on the third Friday of each month from 9:00 – 10:30 and that the meetings with Dr. Friedman will take place on the first Wednesday of each month from 11:30 – 12:30. Members requested Ms. Dempsey to try and push back the meeting time with Dr. Friedman to 12:00 – 1:00 rather than 11:30 – 12:30 if at all possible.

Professor Campbell also noted that he plans to talk with Dr. Friedman before the June 23 meeting about the fall forum so he has time to think about it. He reminded Professor Olin that he also volunteered to talk with Dr. Friedman before the 23rd about the AHC F&P Committee.

Lastly, in preparation for next year, Professor Campbell stated that he would like members to start thinking about different themes the committee can work on. He noted that rather than simply reacting to issues, he would like the committee to be more proactive and, therefore, more productive and functional. He stated that this item will be on the agenda for discussion at the first meeting of the 2011 – 2012 academic year on August 19.

Hearing no further business, Professor Campbell adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate