

[In these minutes: Parking Concerns for Professional Students, Dental RFP Meeting Update]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

January 26, 2011

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: Samantha Berget, (chair pro tem), Brandon Burk, Sean Corvin, Patrick Day, Mark DeRocher, Grant Hennington, Kit Johnson, Chase Lembeck, Lynn Seuer, Eden Sonn, Leah Tacheny, Josie Thole

REGRETS: Eric Moeker, Erin Kasper, Barry Park

ABSENT: Junaid Ghouse, Megan Meyer, Paul Syverson

GUEST: Victoria Nelson, interim associate director of operations, Parking & Transportation Services

OTHERS ATTENDING: Dr. Barbara Brandt, associate vice president, AHC Office of Education; Jarrod Call, Council of Graduate Students (COGS) representative, Aklilu Beyene, UMD Pharmacy student

I). Samantha Berget convened the meeting, welcomed those present, and called for introductions.

II). Members unanimously approved the December 1, 2010 minutes.

III). Ms. Berget welcomed Victoria Nelson, interim associate director of operations, Parking and Transportation Services, who was invited to discuss parking concerns.

Ms. Nelson began by stating that full-time students can enter the parking lottery each semester to try and secure a parking contract. Entering the lottery, however, does not guarantee a contract at the requested facility. Graduate students with a parking contracts have the option to continue their contract from fall semester to spring semester and into the summer. Contract locations vary slightly from semester to semester.

As of the end of February, the Northstar Lot, which has approximately 600 spaces, will be permanently closed due to construction of a new AHC building, reported Ms. Nelson. All faculty, staff and students who currently park in this lot will be relocated. In addition, the small contract lot south of the Rec Center will also be permanently closed due to the expansion of the Rec Center. Parking availability is constantly changing; all surface lots are potential locations for new buildings.

Ms. Nelson asked about students' parking concerns. Kit Johnson explained that parking options for third and fourth year medical students on clinical rotations at Fairview University are extremely limited. Semester contracts are not practical because rotations generally only last 4 – 6 weeks out of a semester. There simply are not a lot of short-term parking options available.

While on occasion some students are able to secure short-term contracts in certain lots (e.g. C79), these spaces are usually sold out during the academic year. Regarding the Oak Street Ramp, even students who enter before 7:00 a.m. and get the reduced day rate of \$6/day, this adds up over the course of a six week rotation, especially when students on surgery rotations, for example, need to be on campus six to seven days a week. The Maroon Lot isn't really an option either because it does not open until 6:00 a.m., which is too late for most students because they have to arrive for rounds before 6:00 a.m. The only affordable option for many students is to find free street parking, which often involves walking long distances in the cold and dark. This is a safety issue.

Dr. Brandt stated that parking is an issue for professional students on rotations in general, and that this problem is not unique to medical students. She asked members if parking is an issue at all their rotation sites or if this is primarily a Fairview/UMP rotation site problem. Mr. Johnson stated that other sites have made parking arrangements for students on rotations and parking is either free or at a significantly reduced rate. The primary parking concern lies with the Fairview rotation site. With that said, he suggested that the University explore offering students on rotations a reduced rate if they show their badges.

Ms. Nelson asked about the number of students on rotations that would need parking. Dr. Brandt stated that she would raise this question at tomorrow's associate deans meeting to try to understand the volume. Ms. Nelson stated that some schools/departments have parking contracts to address their parking issues, and used the first year resident program as an example.

Ms. Nelson stated that Parking and Transportation Services has a GAPSA Occasional Use Parking Contract for eligible Graduate and Professional Student Association members. The cost of this contract is \$74 and is valid for 22 uses between September and January. Contract holders have access to an assigned facility from 4:30 pm-midnight, Monday thru Friday, and all day Saturday and Sunday. She also stated that Parking and Transportation Services may consider offering a temporary parking contract for students on four to six week rotations, but before any final decisions are made it will be important to know the volume. Dr. Brandt stated that there needs to be a discussion across the AHC schools to fully understand the magnitude of the problem and how it can be resolved. Mr. Johnson volunteered to talk to the Medical School Council to get a handle on the Medical School volume.

Ms. Nelson asked about what parking arrangements Fairview has made with students on rotations. Mr. Johnson stated that Fairview Riverside offers a reduced rate. Ms. Nelson asked whether Fairview also gives students a reduced rate at their parking ramp on Delaware Street. Mr. Johnson stated that the Delaware Street ramp does not offer a reduced rate.

Ms. Berget asked about the turnaround time for getting a parking space, assuming something can be worked out. Ms. Nelson stated that once a decision is made about what can be made available to students on rotations, she would expect that arrangements could be made relatively quickly, within a day or two.

Dr. Brandt stated that this issue is a prime example of what this committee is all about. Students need to bring their issues to the attention of the AHC Office of Education, which is accountable to the students. She added that for her, the real concern has to do with the safety and security of students who are walking long distances in the middle of the night. An analysis of this total issue needs to be conducted. Ms. Nelson agreed, and reminded students to use 624-WALK, the Security Monitor Program - <http://www1.umn.edu/police/escort.html>. Chase Lembeck stated that he used to work for this program as a security escort, and he too encouraged students to use the program, which is available 24 hours and is free. He added that the security escorts wear a uniform and are trained to defend the people they are escorting in the event of an attack.

Grant Hennington asked whether it would be possible for students who park in the Maroon Lot could have in and out privileges and not have to pay each time they enter the lot if they need to leave during the day for program-related reasons. That will not be possible at this facility, which is a public lot and not a contract lot, noted Ms. Nelson, particularly in light of the fact the Northstar Lot is going away, a change in this lot operation will not be made.

Ms. Berget asked how the light rail construction that is scheduled to begin this summer will impact parking/travel time. Ms. Nelson stated once Washington Avenue closes there will only be a limited number of cross over points. She stated that it will be important that people coming to campus allow themselves more time to get around because it will be congested. All the traffic that currently goes down Washington Avenue will need to be re-routed. Beginning in March, the Washington Avenue Bridge will be one lane each way. She reiterated that it will be important for people to plan ahead and leave themselves plenty of time when coming to campus, particularly if they are traveling during peak times.

Dr. Brandt stated that the AHC is also asking questions about how the light rail will impact classrooms, etc. She suggested the committee invite a Facilities Management representative to talk about this issue.

In response to a request for her contact information, Ms. Nelson requested Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, send this out to members following the meeting. Ms. Nelson thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend today's meeting, and stated that she is hopeful a solution can be found.

IV). Next, Ms. Berget turned to Sean Corvin for an update on the Dental RFP Committee meeting he attended in December. Mr. Corvin stated that AHC students still need to decide whether or not they want to participate in the voluntary dental plan that will be open to all students systemwide. The committee, which was comprised of Boynton Health Services (BHS) staff, an outside consultant and three students, was convened to review the proposals from two main vendors. Since this meeting, the contract has been awarded, and Sue Jackson, director, Office of Student Health Benefits, will be able to share more details at the committee's next meeting on February 23rd.

Ms. Berget asked about whether restorative care will be covered under the plan. Yes, stated Mr. Corvin, the plan will have excellent preventative coverage and restorative care will be covered between 50% - 80%, depending on the procedure. The plan will be tiered in an attempt to encourage students to go to BHS for care where they will pay less. Regarding the coordinate campuses, the committee identified tier 1 clinics within a short distance of each of the campuses so students will have access to low cost (tier 1) providers in their respective areas.

Dr. Brandt announced that she recently learned that a Health Insurance Summit is being planned for March 14, 2011. Student health insurance is a big issue nationally. Dr. Brandt noted that she has asked Ms. Jackson from the Office of Student Health Benefits to invite members of the AHC SCC to participate in the Summit. She encouraged members to attend if at all possible. Not only is it important for health sciences students to be educated on the issues, but the Summit will also be an opportunity for students to let their voices be heard. Dr. Brandt noted that she has requested that the information coming out of the Summit be presented to the Deans Council so they too understand the issues.

Hearing no other questions, Ms. Berget stated that she liked the idea of inviting a representative from Facilities Management to an upcoming meeting to provide the committee with insight about the changes that will be taking place as a result of light rail construction. Lynn Seuer on the Rochester campus asked that the Facilities Management presentation include information

about what is being planned for the expansion of the Rochester campus, including information on how parking will be impacted.

V). Ms. Berget thanked members for coming today, and, hearing no further business, adjourned the meeting.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate