

[In these minutes: Committee Business, Discussion with Professor Patterson and Professor Krichbaum from the AHC Faculty Consultative Committee, GAPSA Funding Issue]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

March 26, 2014

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: Christine Myers (chair), Jaime Dean, Sandy Dong, JonPaul Dragseth, Amanda Koethe, Brian Ladd, Renee Larson, Susan Lee, Courtney Mason, Maeve McClellan, Chris Thomson, Marissa Wagar

REGRETS: Alexandria Kahlert, Rose Lemke, Abby Sauer, Andrew Weaver

ABSENT: Gina Gibson, Riley Hauschildt, Ian Reynolds

GUESTS: Professor Ned Patterson, chair, AHC FCC; Professor Kathie Krichbaum, AHC FCC chair-elect; Andrew McNally (Council of Graduate Students); Alfonso Sintjago (Graduate and Professional School Assembly)

I). Christine Myers convened the meeting and welcomed those present.

II). Ms. Myers began with a few announcements:

- Welcome to Bryan Ladd, the new Medical School representative on the committee.
- Welcome to Jaime Dean, the new College of Veterinary Medicine representative on the committee, who will be replacing Chris Thomson.
- Renee Dempsey, Senate staff, will be sending out an email soon asking for nominations or self-nominations to serve as AHC SCC chair for the 2014 – 2015 academic year. Ms. Myers encouraged members who will be continuing on the committee to consider chairing next year as it is a good opportunity to develop leadership skills.

III). Ms. Myers then welcomed Professor Ned Patterson, AHC Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC) chair, and Professor Kathie Krichbaum, the AHC FCC chair-elect for the 2014 – 2015 academic year. She noted that they were invited to talk about the issues that the AHC FCC worked on this academic year. Professor Patterson began by explaining the membership of the AHC FCC to the committee. He then highlighted the topics the committee took up this year:

- The professional student experience.
- Collegiate constitutions.
- Clinical faculty, which are on annual appointments versus tenured/tenure-track faculty.
- Reviews of senior administrators.
- New AHC reporting structure.
- Met with the Vice President for Research Brian Herman.

- Increasing interdisciplinary research interactions among faculty. Hosted Third Thursday gatherings to foster and promote interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Communication challenges related to ITV connections between the Twin Cities, Duluth and Rochester.
- Improving communication lines between collegiate governance groups, the AHC FCC and University senators.

Professor Patterson asked Professor Krichbaum if she had anything to add and she mentioned that the committee also talked about how the AHC relates to and interacts with the rest of the University. She also reiterated the clinical faculty versus tenured/tenure-track faculty issue. Professor Krichbaum added that the AHC FCC has also talked about interacting more frequently and effectively with the AHC SCC. Professor Patterson solicited members' comments and questions, which included:

- Is anything being done to address AHC facilities and school funding issues which are resulting in students leaving the University to go to other institutions despite the fact the University has a number of top ranked programs? Professor Patterson stated that this is a complicated issue. Funding for each of the AHC schools is given to the vice president for health sciences and dean of the Medical School who then decides how it is distributed. Professor Krichbaum agreed that funding of graduate education is a big issue and the same level of funding has not generally been applied to the professional schools. Professor Patterson added that the current funding model is not necessarily the best educational model. Professor Krichbaum noted that in her opinion the issue is that the University of Minnesota model is very unique in terms of its structure.
- Student debt is an issue for some professional students. Have there been any discussions about lobbying to get more state funding to reduce tuition costs? Professor Patterson stated that people understand that the current model is not sustainable. Funding from the state to the University has been reduced by about half over the past decade. Professor Krichbaum added that it is very unlikely the University's state funding will increase. Across the country, states are decreasing their funding to public institutions and this is the reason there has been a push to do more private fundraising.

Professor Patterson and Professor Krichbaum stated that they would be interested in developing more of a relationship with the AHC SCC and mentoring the group. AHC SCC members indicated that they would appreciate the guidance. Professor Patterson suggested having a joint AHC FCC/AHC SCC meeting and/or inviting the AHC SCC chair to one of the AHC FCC meetings with Dr. Jackson. Ms. Myers stated that in her opinion having this connection with the AHC FCC would be helpful.

Mr. Thomson stated that the clinical faculty issue (annually renewable appointments, in particular) have been discussed quite a bit by the Veterinary Medicine Student Council. Has any progress been made in terms of longer contracts once faculty have demonstrated themselves? Professor Patterson stated that he plans to bring this issue to the attention of Dr. Jackson to see if something can be done to lengthen the contract appointments and to extend them voting rights in their respective schools. Professor Krichbaum added that the schools like to retain the flexibility that the annually renewable contracts give them. This will definitely be an issue that will continue to be discussed.

Ms. Myers thanked Professor Patterson and Professor Krichbaum for a good discussion.

III). Next, Ms. Myers welcomed Andrew McNally from the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) and Alfonso Sintjago from the Graduate and Professional School Assembly (GAPSA).

Mr. McNally began by saying a few words about the funding of the different councils. Then, Mr. Sintjago outlined the issue for GAPSA, which is the fees process in general and in particular this year's separate COGS fees request (http://www.studentservicesfees.umn.edu/historical/14-15_Applications/appeals/GAPSA_combined.pdf).

In response to a question about the funding impact for the other school councils, Mr. McNally explained that the pass through funding to the school councils should not be affected by the GAPSA funding cut and that each school's funding would not be impacted. The next GAPSA president will need to decide how to handle/manage its funding cut, e.g., cut officer stipends, cut grants for travel programs, cut in social programming. The reason that COGS decided to separate from GAPSA financially was because it questioned how GAPSA was spending the money it received and a lack of financial transparency.

Mr. Sintjago agreed that there needs to be more financial transparency and conceded that this has been a tough year. To this point, GAPSA is looking at whether the office of the president of GAPSA is problematic and whether one person should have that much authority. GAPSA has some structural problems that it needs to address. Also being considered by GAPSA, is reorganizing the assembly so that COGS has 50% of the votes. Hopefully, moving forward, the problems will be resolved. In Mr. Sintjago's opinion, he believes that GAPSA and COGS should merge because a lot of the programming they do overlaps, which would also serve to eliminate the competition for limited resources.

Mr. McNally stated that he agrees with the general spirit of what Mr. Sintjago said, but disagrees with a number of his points. He suggested that if GAPSA's funding is reduced by 40% that all ten student councils should be pulled together to talk about the budget and what they want as well as the GAPSA governance structure in general.

Regarding a question about whether AHC SCC members should go back to their councils and make them aware of the issue and to prepare for a collective conversation between the ten councils, Mr. McNally and Mr. Sintjago said yes.

Professor Patterson stated that there is an ongoing debate at the University about how graduate and professional students are defined. Mr. McNally added that it is his understanding that at the federal level there will no longer be a difference between how they fund graduate and professional students.

Mr. Sintjago reminded those present that tomorrow is Support U Day at the State Capitol. He encouraged whoever is available to attend.

Before adjourning, Ms. Wagar, a Rochester School of Nursing representative on the committee, voiced frustration over a technology issue (only one microphone in Rochester classroom and incompatibility between the Twin Cities and Rochester systems) that is having a learning impact on Rochester students. She stated that while she understands making technology improvements costs money, she and the other Rochester students are paying the same level for their education as Twin Cities students, but cannot participate in class discussions to the same degree. This is an issue for both nursing and clinical lab science students in Rochester. Ms. Myers stated that she heard back from Professor Christine Mueller in Rochester who encourages Ms. Wagar to contact her directly about her concerns.

Professor Krichbaum suggested Ms. Wagar and her fellow students draft a letter to the associate dean outlining the specific issues. Writing a letter collectively will have more of an impact than individually.

IV). Hearing no further business, Ms. Myers adjourned the meeting, and thanked members and guests for attending.

Renee Dempsey
University Senate