

Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC)

November 11, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting

[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 represents the views of, nor are they binding on, the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

[In these minutes: Welcome; AHC FCC Overview]

PRESENT: Jeff Theismann (chair), Nicholas Schuler, Sarah Haerle, Ashtyn Johnson, Chad Mickelson, Morgan Mensick, Sarah Bahler, Madeleine Otis, Katie Thibert, Courtney Wood

ABSENT: Jonathan Ekerholm, Javi Monardez, Crosby Tindal

REGRETS: Jamie Dean, Megan Guthmiller

GUESTS: Kathleen Krichbaum, chair, Academic Health Center Faculty Consultative Committee

OTHERS ATTENDING: Katie Ask

1. Welcome and Introductions: Jeff Theismann, chair, convened the meeting and asked committee members to introduce themselves.

2. AHC FCC Overview: Theismann introduced Professor Kathleen Krichbaum, chair, Academic Health Center Faculty Consultative Committee (AHC FCC), who said it was her second year serving as chair and her second term on the committee. Krichbaum said that the AHC FCC, a committee of the University Senate that reports to the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), is charged with meeting with the senior vice president for health sciences and dean of the medical school at least once each semester to discuss matters of concern to faculty.

She noted that as chair of the AHC FCC, she also serves on the FCC in an ex officio role. She said lately they had been discussing free speech in relation to an incident that recently happened at the law school: a well-regarded speaker was on campus giving a talk about the need for arming revolutionaries in the Middle East. Protestors opposed to this idea shouted the speaker down while he was trying to deliver his talk. So, she said, the issue of freedom of speech on the campus versus the fact that the University exists partially to exchange opinions and try to gain others' perspectives has been under discussion. She said that law professors on the FCC have been weighing in on what is legal and what is not legal as it relates to freedom of speech. She added that the FCC is trying to figure out if the University needs new policies addressing what is the right to assembly, and how protestors should be treated if they impede free speech. FCC has its finger on the pulse of what is happening at the University, said Krichbaum.

Krichbaum said that serving on FCC has been a learning experience. She said it would be great if the AHC SCC chair sat on the Student Senate Consultative Committee (SSCC) since that is the group they flow into. Krichbaum also expressed interest in having the AHC SCC and AHC FCC

chairs attend each other's meetings because, while technically the two committees do not have a relationship, doing so might be valuable.

Krichbaum then focused on the following initiatives of the AHC FCC:

- In meetings with Dr. Brooks Jackson, vice president and dean, Medical School, over the past one and a half years, they have helped orient him to the shared governance model. He came from Johns Hopkins, which did not have this type of governance. He was very open to their suggestions, she said, when he developed the school's strategic plan, the primary goal of which is to be one of the top ten medical schools in the country. That is his focus and the rest of us are on that same train, she added. This has resulted in an overall elevation of standards throughout the schools. The AHC FCC keeps the lines of communication open and advises on how his plan might affect faculty.
- Krichbaum said that another area of focus is technology. AHC FCC members recently went to Duluth to meet with faculty in their Medical School and College of Pharmacy. Faculty in Duluth would like to attend seminars and presentations on the Twin Cities campus but often technology doesn't work. AHC FCC has had several meetings with the Office of Information Technology (OIT) about a range of issues. The interim vice president of Information Technology, Bernie Gulachek, will be coming to the next meeting to listen to their concerns.

Krichbaum then asked if students had any technology-related concerns. Theismann stated that "this committee is an example of the difficulties" as system campus connectivity has been very spotty.

It was also mentioned that there have been major issues in classroom 141 in the basement of Moos. The microphone cuts in and out and Rochester cannot hear the professor speaking. Morgan Mensick added that Duluth conference room microphones override Children's Rehab Building systems and so the sound cuts out sometimes. Krichbaum said that many faculty have been to other campuses and systems where students can be in a group and professors in another place facilitating seminars and small group discussion, so they know these problems should be fixable.

- In meeting with the Council of Graduate Students (COGS), the FCC has been told that student access to mental health services on campus is lacking. COGS shared that the wait time was three weeks for someone in crisis. Committee members confirmed that they have heard these issues as well, that both Boynton and the student counseling office have long wait times. Theismann added that there is someone in the medical school responsible for students in education crisis, and that's a possible place for students to go. He's heard that students with mental health issues don't feel supported.

Some students go to advisors, said Theismann. However, there is a challenge inherent in that relationship. Advisors are involved in multiple ways with students, potentially writing their recommendation letters. Krichbaum confirmed she has heard of students feeling conflicted in this way as well.

She said that the Graduate School and Dean Henning Schroeder are trying to develop mental health support systems for professional students that parallel the CLA system.

- Krichbaum stated that they are discussing new standards of faculty productivity: tracking publications, types of publications, the paradigms for first author publications, last author publications, and engaging with students. She said they are trying to get some flexibility in how productivity is measured from school to school. Productivity requirements often affect faculty ability to teach as well as they would like, spend time with students as much as they'd like and as a result, she said, faculty stress has increased.

Sarah Haerle then asked Krichbaum about an issue of student funding in the Medical Lab Sciences (MLS). Haerle said that the curriculum is pretty much set by the fourth year. She said that thirteen credits are all a student can register for, but some of the grants and funding opportunities require a fifteen credit load. Therefore, they become ineligible. Krichbaum promised to mention this to faculty on the AHC-FCC and will let Theismann know what she finds out.

Theismann then thanked Krichbaum for her time and concluded the meeting by mentioning a volunteer opportunity for AHC students: the Medical School student government has teamed up with Laundry Love, an organization that helps provide assistance for underserved populations by doing their laundry (thus allowing individuals to redirect funds and time elsewhere). If other schools in the AHC are interested in getting involved they can contact Theismann.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patricia Straub
University Senate