

**Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC)
November 16, 2016
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: Review of Agenda Items; AHC Communications Strategy; Peer-to-Peer Learning]

PRESENT: Jeff Theismann (chair) Brianna McCabe, Paige Borst, Dorothy Cheng, Ari Lederman, Annette Lundberg, Chad Mickelson, Sydney Morton, Nicholas Schuler, Samantha Schutz, Katie Thibert, Patrick Zahner, Teagan Warrick

REGRETS: Katie Ask

ABSENT: Keerthanaa Jeeva

GUESTS: Emily Lawrence, chief of staff, Office of the Vice President, Academic Health Center

OTHERS: Vickie Courtney, University Senate Office

Chair Jeff Theismann welcomed the committee and the members introduced themselves.

1. Review of agenda items for year - Theismann reviewed the potential agenda items discussed at the last meeting:

- Student mental health
- FIPCC scheduling issues
- Education and Learning Center
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- Building maintenance plan
- How tuition dollars are used in the AHC
- How clinical sites are chosen

The committee had no additional thoughts or suggestions.

2. AHC communications strategy - Theismann introduced Emily Lawrence, chief of staff, Office of the Vice President, Academic Health Center, to discuss the AHC communications strategy. Lawrence began by noting that most communications to students from the AHC are done by email, and asked committee members to speak to the efficacy of this approach. She noted that currently, email communications are system-wide, and not targeted by college. Theismann said that while email is an efficient means of communication, large email blasts may not be read by students. Timing is also important, Theismann added, since students will not likely read emails sent on Friday afternoons, but may be more likely to read if sent during a lecture or on Monday mornings. Ari Lederman said that perhaps faculty should draw students' attention to important content in these emails during classes.

Lawrence asked committee members what type of communications they would like from the AHC; for example, legislative updates. Nicholas Schuler said that legislative updates would be helpful, but they should be condensed with bullet points and links to more detailed summaries. Thibert suggested placing any action items for students at the top of the email.

Lederman asked Lawrence to explain her role as chief of staff. Lawrence said that in her role, she works on special projects for the vice president, supervises staff, and oversees communications and public affairs in the AHC. Theismann asked what Lawrence was currently working on. Lawrence replied that she was currently working on the Fairview relationship, the Children's Health Services partnership, the new Education and Learning Center, and the potential controversy at the legislature regarding fetal tissue research.

The committee then talked at length about the issues with FIPCC, including scheduling issues, programming concerns, and distance learning/technology issues.

Vickie Courtney, director, University Senate Office, asked how involved students were in the legislative session. Lawrence replied that timing has been an issue for students, but that emails from students to legislators would be very helpful in moving the AHC agenda forward. Lawrence said that there are email templates available for this through the University Government Relations Office. Courtney said that issues with study space expressed by the committee would be good to let legislators know about, so they better understand why a new building is necessary. Theismann suggested also bringing this issue to AHC college boards to have the boards send postcards to legislators. Annette Lundberg noted that for AHC students whose programs are not located on the Minneapolis campus, the location of the new building is less desirable.

3. Peer-to-peer learning - Lawrence said that currently, the AHC is working on a draft policy on peer-to-peer learning, which is in the pre-consultation phase. Once ready for consultation, it could be brought to the committee by Brian Sick, associate professor, Medicine. Sydney Morton noted that Dental Hygiene students were worried about the potential loss of peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Lawrence said that in its current form, the policy will likely dictate that peer-to-peer learning is allowed, though models will likely be required for more sensitive procedures.

4. Other business - Dorothy Cheng asked committee members how their programs funded printing, since her program does not provide for student printing, creating a financial burden for students. Teagan Warrick said that in Duluth, students pay for parking, but do not pay for textbooks. Theismann said that in his program, their student government group pays for student printing through their budget. Lederman noted that Dentistry provides funding for student printing.

Lawrence asked committee members if they were affected by the current dean search. Cheng said that yes, students have some anxiety with a departing long-term dean. Lederman added that students are talking about this issue.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Irish
University Senate Office