

Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC)

December 14, 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: Student Concerns Regarding Mental Health Access; AHC Communication; Health Sciences Education Center; FIPCC]

PRESENT: Jeff Theismann (chair), Katie Ask, Brianna McCabe, Chad Michelson, Teagan Warrick, Paige Borst, Samantha Schutz, Patrick Zahner, Eline Lenne

REGRETS: Dorothy Cheng, Ari Lederman, Sydney Morton, Nicholas Schuler, Katie Thibert

ABSENT: Keerthanaa Jeeva, Annette Lundberg

GUESTS: Emily Lawrence, chief of staff, Office of the Vice President, Academic Health Center; Kathleen Krichbaum, chair, Academic Health Center Faculty Consultative Committee (AHC FCC); Cathy Carlson, member, AHC FCC; John Connell, member, AHC FCC; Les Drewes, member, AHC FCC; Paul Jardine, member, AHC FCC; Wendy St. Peter, member, AHC FCC

OTHERS: Emily Lawrence, Office of the Vice President, Academic Health Center; Kathryn Hamilton, Center for Health Interprofessional Programs (CHIP)

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

1. Student concerns regarding mental health access - Kathleen Krichbaum, chair, AHC FCC, let members of the AHC SCC know that student mental health was a priority for their committee this year. Krichbaum asked if students had seen progress in this area. Theismann, noted that while wait times at Boynton Health (hereafter, Boynton) had been reduced, the issue had not been completely resolved. Specifically for AHC students, he said, there is concern with the hours counseling appointments are available; since many AHC students have variable schedules, their schedule may not allow taking advantage of Boynton offerings. Krichbaum responded that the Provost's Joint Task Force on Student Mental Health (JTFSMH) had created a "[Red Folder](#)" containing resources for student mental health, recently shared with program directors. She asked if students on the AHC SCC would be interested in giving feedback to Boynton. Theismann replied that yes, the committee would be interested.

A committee member asked what was causing the increased demand for student mental health services at Boynton. Krichbaum replied that this has been an issue the University has focused on over the past two years, detailed in an article in The Chronicle of Higher Education ([Mental Health in Minnesota: Where Student Activism Spurred Change](#)). Increased student concern led to increased focus on the issue, resulting in more funds being allocated by President Kaler to

Boynton. Krichbaum added that there has been a well-documented increase in stress among students, due to several issues, including diagnosed depression or anxiety, economic stress, or food insecurity. This issue is being addressed by Boynton, Disability Services and Campus Counseling Services. Some professional schools also have additional resources for their own students.

Krichbaum asked committee members what they thought might be most helpful for AHC students; for example, more early intervention efforts, improvements to the environment, or better identification of stressors in professional programs. She added that she has heard from some students that an increased burden on faculty increases stress for students. Eline Lenne responded that due to the hybrid nature of her program, Occupational Therapy, most communication to students is sent by email, making it difficult to get feedback from or provide guidance to students. Chad Michelson noted that he senses a lot of stress from faculty heavily engaged in research as well as teaching. Kathryn Hamilton added that for some programs (CHIP, for example), the building location may make students feel isolated, and the lack of light in basement locations may increase levels of depression.

2. AHC Communication - Krichbaum outlined the AHC FCC priorities for the year, which include a focus on improved communication, connectivity, and collaboration. There is a major issue with the lack of functioning technology for connectivity within the AHC, she added, which creates issues for students participating remotely in meetings and classes.

3. Health Sciences Education Center - Krichbaum asked the committee what they had heard about the proposed Health Sciences and Education Center; while she was aware that the plan had been presented to the AHC SCC last year, there had been many changes since that time. The current proposal is very detailed, she added, with the goal of making the proposal clear to faculty and students in the AHC. She noted that it would be helpful to have a forum for faculty and students to ask questions and discuss the plan with Brooks Jackson, vice president for health sciences, AHC. Some details of the plan include communal spaces for increased interprofessional interaction, and prioritization of computers and conference room space. Some students have voiced interest in adding more study spaces to the plan. Lawrence noted that some AHC deans were presented with the design of the new building to get feedback; other such presentations are forthcoming. She added that in the current phase, the design is focused on space allocation, and is close to being ready for final consultation and comment.

Patrick Zahner relayed that students in his program felt that information about the plan had been difficult to find. Krichbaum said that in her understanding of the plan, there would be increased opportunities for collaboration in the new space, and that students would be surveyed to better assess their needs for the space. Emily Lawrence confirmed that funding for the proposed building would be discussed on Tuesday with legislators, and that the outcome of that discussion would affect the project timeline. She added that she understood the governor said this building was his highest priority, though a bonding vote may be delayed to May 2017. Theismann replied that students would be interested in helping to advocate for funding for the new building.

4. FIPCC - Theismann provided an overview of issues the AHC SCC has discussed regarding scheduling and course content for the Foundation of Professional Communication and

Collaboration (FIPCC) course, and asked about the possibility of changing the time to avoid Friday afternoons. Zahner noted that when he took the course, he felt that much of the content covered in class could have been included in the pre-work assignments. Hamilton responded that in many instances, there were concerns that students did not complete the pre-work assigned, which may be why this was included in the course content.

On the issue of course scheduling, Krichbaum noted that this has been a consistent issue for FIPCC. Paul Jardine added that when scheduling issues had been discussed, Friday was identified as the only open time in all AHC programs for the course. In order to change this, he said, each program would need to be asked to change their teaching schedule, which could be challenging. It is important when requesting this change to make sure AHC administrators understand the needs and concerns surrounding FIPCC scheduling. He added that there are also many concerns for students connecting remotely to FIPCC, due to technology issues in the AHC; pressure from faculty and student groups regarding scheduling, curriculum, and technology will be important for planning the new building.

Krichbaum asked the committee if they would like to jointly meet with the AHC FCC periodically during the year to collaborate on issues. Theismann responded that yes, this would be something of value to the committee, though he suggested the first meeting take place earlier in the year to better coordinate between the committees.

Paul Olin asked if AHC SCC members felt they had access to AHC administrators, and if they felt administrators consulted with them on issues. Theismann responded that Brian Sick, associate professor, Department of Medicine, and Lawrence had been very helpful and responsive.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Barbara Irish
University Senate Office