

[In these minutes: 1. Chair's Report, 2. Expansion of the Task Force]

HEALTH PLAN TASK FORCE (HPTF)

MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1999

10:00 - 11:30

300 MORRILL HALL

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University of Minnesota Senate or Twin Cities Campus Assembly; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represent the view or, nor are they binding on the Senate or Assembly, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

PRESENT: Dick McGehee (Chair), Linda Aaker, Avner Ben-Ner, Richard Butler, Carol Carrier, Amos Deinard, Keith Dunder, Robert Fahnhorst, David Hamilton, Priscilla Pope, Kathryn Pouliot, Harlan Smith, Larry Thompson, Gavin Watt.

ABSENT: Bart Finzel, George Green, Robert Sonkowsky.

1. CHAIR'S REPORT

Professor Dick McGehee stated that six proposals were received. The HPTF recommended to Vice President Carol Carrier that four be invited for interviews. The recommendation was approved and interviews were scheduled for October 28 and 29, with two firms on each day. During those interviews, questions were asked and additional materials were requested. All interviews were videotaped which allowed subcommittee members to view those that they could not attend in person.

The full HPTF was scheduled to meet on November 4, but that meeting was cancelled to devote that time to the subcommittee. Following those discussions, a final recommendation was made to Vice President Carol Carrier. An additional interview was held on November 7 and more materials were requested. A recommendation is now ready to be presented to the Regents Finance Subcommittee at their December 9 meeting.

2. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

The Task Force closed its meeting to discuss the final recommendation.

3. EXPANSION OF THE TASK FORCE

Professor McGehee said that in order for people to buy-in to whatever recommendation is made by this Task Force, there should be representation from all groups across the four campuses. Discussion was then held regarding representation from the following groups:

AFSCME - Bev Hall has been asked to join to represent AFSCME headquarters, but a rank-and-file member might also be useful. It still might not be possible for these two people to speak for all four campuses as well as three different AFSCME groups in the Twin Cities.

STUDENTS - Undergraduates and graduate assistants should have representation. For undergraduates, SSCC or MSA should be contacted; for graduates, talk with George Green or GAPSA. Since most students are not interested in insurance issues, the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) might be able to suggest students who are familiar and interested in the topic.

CROOKSTON - Morris is currently represented, but should not be expected to know what Crookston's needs are. The Crookston FCC member should be asked for input on selecting this member.

BOYNTON - Boynton has dual role in that it provides services and its Administration represents undergraduate students in a plan. The Administrative part should also be included in representation. Since Boynton is just concerned with the Twin Cities, the Task Force might also consider representation, or information, from the other campuses.

The Task Force also made the following comments during the discussion:

- Should employee classes from each campus have representation?
- Could ITV be used to facilitate interaction with coordinate campus members?
- Would members be elected or appointed?
- If too many members are added, the Task Force will have a dysfunctional size
- Task Force is evolving in a new direction; from studying a problem to an advisory Task Force for Carol Carrier
- Task Force was originally formed by FCC and AAUP; maybe another conversation should be held between the FCC Chair, FCC Vice Chair, HPTF Chair, and Carol Carrier
- Task Force is another example of faculty and administrative partnerships
- For Duluth, a way will need to be found to work with the faculty union since there are some things that unions are not allowed to agree to because of their contract
- Union participation is important, but it cannot limit the authority of the Task Force
- If a permanent Task Force is established, a balance will need to be reached regarding membership and the authority that the Task Force has
- Next year's Task Force will be studying information to make a decision, which might turn into a political process
- Task Force should be informal, but credibility is what is really needed to receive approval from all groups when a final recommendation is made
- New Task Force members should be picked from the constituency instead of by the employer

It was decided that Carol Carrier would look into an AFSCME rank-and-file representative, a Teamsters representative, and other coordinate campus classes. Dick McGehee would contact George Green regarding graduate representation. David Hamilton would talk to the Crookston FCC member regarding a Crookston representative. Becky Hippert would talk to SSCC about an undergraduate representative. Linda Aaker would talk with Ed Ehlinger regarding Boynton Administration representation.

Professor McGehee said that representation should be added sooner, rather than later so that all new members can be brought up to speed and feel comfortable with the information being presented. If additional people come forward and want to participate, they should be referred to the person(s) representing their class to express their views and be offered access to minutes and other Task Force resources.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Professor McGehee then distributed information from Bob Fahnhorst regarding the care system model. The handout states that the state will collect experience data, now that all plans are self-insured, which will be analyzed. Bids will then be requested for 2002. Therefore, the Task Force will not know until next year what the state will be deciding. Kathy Burek could be invited to a meeting to provide input on the state's decision.

Bob Fahnhorst said that this is the second year of the Graduate Assistant plan, so an RFP will need to be sent soon since a new plan will need to be in place by August 1, 2000. The RFP will ask for costs for one year, and could be expanded to renew at the same time as faculty and staff.

Professor McGehee then said that the December 2 meeting would be cancelled, On this date, he will be speaking to the University Senate. Then, on December 9, a decision will hopefully be made by the Regents Finance Subcommittee. The December 16 meeting will then take place as scheduled. He thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Rebecca Hippert
University Senate