

[In these minutes: 1. Issues for the year, 2. Discussion with Senior Vice President Frank Cerra]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC)

MINUTES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2000

5:00 - 6:00

406 CHILD REHAB CENTER

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

PRESENT:

Bruce Trimble(Chair- Dentistry), Leslie Helou (Pharmacy), Emily Irwin (Medical School), Resa Jones (Public Health), Gina Lee (Medical School), Heather McCurdy (Veterinary Medicine).

GUESTS: Terry Bock, Senior Vice President Frank Cerra.

Bruce Trimble convened the meeting at 5 p.m. and members took turns introducing themselves.

1. IDENTIFY ISSUES FOR THE YEAR

Bruce Trimble reviewed the outcomes from the last meeting at which time the committee, in conjunction with Dr. Cerra, agreed to focus on one or two cross-college issues this year. Past projects of this committee have included Mini Med School and CHIP. If members have issues specific to their school or college, then time could be arranged for them to speak with Dr. Cerra separately.

Bruce Trimble then asked if there were any school specific issues besides the Dental School lecture room assignment, which he will handle directly with Dr. Cerra . Hearing no others, he asked how room availability has been for students with the change to semesters. Members commented that lab space was hard to find, AHC lecture halls were now being used by students from Basic Sciences and Mechanical Engineering, and some space was less used because of poor sound or lighting.

The committee then discussed the following items for this year:

Student Space

Members discussed equity in space among programs and what types of space were used and also needed. Space was then divided into three categories: 1. study space and small group rooms, 2. increased lab space and 24 hour access, 3. space for students to lounge, eat, and develop realtions within each college. One key issue was that there is some space available but that most is inadequate because of poor lighting or safety concerns. Space designated for each college would also be helpful. In addition, if students are not utilizing all the locker space that they are assigned, changes could be made to renovate this into other usable space. Heather McCurdy stated that the Dean of Veterin ary Medicine is considering renovating a cattle barn for classrooms and additional lounge space.

CHIP

The Council for Health Interdisciplinary Participation (CHIP) was a project of the committee in past years. CHIP has three coordinators which plan interdisciplinary programs for students in the AHC and maintains a space in Moos Tower. Student representatives from each AHC school also serve as an advising board. This year's members questioned its validity by asking who pays for its services, how much is it utilized by each school, what percentage of AHC students use the space, are other non-AHC students using it also, and is there equity among the programs being planned, especially in regards to the St. Paul campus? From initial discussions, Veterinary Medicine and Public Health students rarely use CHIP because it is not conveniently located by these schools, Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing students mainly use CHIP for eating, and the Medical School students utilize CHIP the most.

Other items

- There is a group working on renovating college web pages so that current and prospective students can find information on programs, faculty, and students.

- Communication between students is a concern because of a lack of standards for computer software and hardware. While some schools are still a few years from requiring laptops in class, Veterinary Medicine will start this next year.
- Interdisciplinary classes are very helpful since it lets students from two programs follow one patient through their case cycle. While it might not work for all programs, it should be more fully developed. In the meantime, committee members could start the process informally among students in different colleges.
- The library is poorly furnished and does not have the space to accommodate even a percentage of the AHC students. This forces students to travel to other schools to study.

From these items it was decided that the committee as a whole would tackle this issue of student space. Each member would consult with students from their college or school to determine what type of space was currently being used and what was in the greatest need. This information would be collected and then pooled before the February meeting to be used as a starting point. Additionally, Heather McCurdy said that she would look into the CHIP issue in terms of programming and funding, and report her findings back to the committee also in February.

2. DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FRANK CERRA

The committee members introduced themselves to Dr. Frank Cerra and Terry Bock. Bruce Trimble then began by reviewing the discussion from the first half of the meeting. When asked about possible outcomes he commented that while the committee had not discussed the topic, he felt that CHIP should be evaluated and if the services are not adequate then changes should be made and that nighttime access to rooms and labs might also be another option.

Dr. Cerra said that this is a big issue for the AHC since it has never really been examined. Small changes have been made, but they have not always been the right changes. An inventory of current space is the first step, at which point Lorelee Wederstrom, from AHC Facilities Management, could provide useful CAD drawings of each floor plan in the AHC buildings. The following step would then involve what current and future needs are for the AHC.

He then stated that with the Minnesota Medical Foundation (MMF) moving to the McNamara Alumni Center, the fifth floor of Diehl Hall is now vacant. When the MMF left, they gave \$37,000 to be used to renovate the space. Dr. Cerra put a constraint on the space use so it must be used for study space, similar to the Medical School area in Moos Tower.

A second project, headed by Greg Vercellotti, is for student study space to be included in the 2004 bonding package. \$20 - 25 million will be asked for to build a student center for AHC students which would then link to the Bio-Medical Library. The student center would not only be for studying, but also for learning such as through rooms with one-way glass so that students can interview a patient and then be critiqued by an observer on the other side of the glass.

Another option, in the near future, is to identify a block of classrooms that could be opened up to AHC students at night. Once rooms were identified, then Dr. Cerra's office would work on safety and access issues to make the rooms usable by AHC students.

Bruce Trimble said that once the members complete their surveys, needs can be distributed by the type of space as well as by school to see if adjacent schools could share space.

Q: Would it be possible to achieve some of these renovations or new spaces in the next six months?

A: Yes. Once the committee has a better idea of what they are proposing, a more definite timeline could be drawn.

Q: What information do you need from the members?

A: Members need to categorize the space that is needed and currently available to them. Then we can all discuss possible solutions, after which point my office will look at feasibility and budget constraints.

Q: Would this project work on the St. Paul campus as well?

A: If St. Paul students need space, then this project is applicable. A main focus is also to foster camaraderie among the various classes in each college.

Q: Why are their lockers around the vending machines on the second floor of Diehl Hall?

A: When Coffman was closed those lockers were relocated from that building along with the post office. Coffman continues to rent them, but to any student on campus.

Q: The female dental student lockers are located several floors below the clinic labs. Last year, a student was followed down the stairs and this arrangement became a safety issue. When asked about relocating them into the walls surrounding the clinical rooms, I was told that this was against fire codes, yet there are now lockers in the walls on the North side of the building. Can this be looked into?

A: Minnesota fire codes are tight and their might be a problem. This question should be posed to Lorelee Wederstrom at the next meeting since she knows all the codes. If they could be relocated, it would free up space for converting to student study space.

With no more comments, Bruce Trimble thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 6 p.m.

Becky Hippert
University Senate