

[In these minutes: Tuition rates, Metro Transit letter, 04-05 AHC SCC Representatives]

ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2004

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

488 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:

Kim Canfield, Chair (Public Health), Angela Feneis (Occupational Therapy), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), Jeremy Olsen (UMD School of Medicine), Leah Van Gorp (Nursing), Mark Wiisanen (Medical School – 3rd Year).

REGRETS: Leslie Carranza (Medical School – 2nd

Year), Wesley Kurszewski (Physical Therapy), Tori-Thuy Le (Dental Hygiene), David Renstrom (Pharmacy), Ryann Signorelli (Veterinary Medicine).

GUESTS: Barbara Brandt, Gina Jennissen.

1. TUITION RATES DISCUSSION

Gina Jennissen, Pharmacy student and Student Representative to the Regents, joined the meeting to discuss tuition rates in the professional schools. She said that Kim Canfield forwarded her several questions prior to the meeting that she would answer first, and then would take questions from other members.

Q: Why do tuition rates continue to rise?

A: Tuition rates rose this year because of the \$185 million decrease to the University from the state. To make up this amount, 500 employment positions were lost, but 44 percent was also attributed to an increase in tuition.

Q: Why was there a variety of increases among the professional schools?

A: Tuition prices for professional schools are based on what other similar institutions, many times Big Ten schools, are also charging. A data sheet of tuition prices was then distributed. Professional school tuition increases are also based on market pressure. Tuition cannot be seen as a barrier to recruiting the best students. From the figures, it can be seen that most other institutions increased professional school tuition by a similar amount.

Q: Will tuition continue to rise?

A: In a perfect world, tuition would only rise at the rate of inflation. However, if state support for higher education continues to decrease and the public continues to see education as a private good, then tuition will continue to increase, likely in the double digits. The one question always asked is if applications decreased because of the tuition increase, and the answer is always no. Therefore it is hard to justify not increasing tuition. A long-term strategy for tuition needs to be developed to anticipate future goals for increases as well as the let students know well in advance.

Q: Why would the University lobby for funding for a stadium instead of poor classroom space, such as Mayo Auditorium?

A: This year the University submitted its capital request for building construction and renovation. Of the total, the Governor only recommended about half of the projects, which did not include \$16 million for AHC buildings. Projects that are not funded this year would be delayed at least two years. She testified yesterday to the House Higher Education Committee about taking classes in Mayo. She described the state of the room and how the room does not fit with the type of education that is now being done, such as with group work.

The University did a stadium feasibility study in December which reported that it would need \$222 million to construct an on-campus stadium. Funding for this building is not in this year's capital request and the University is not actively seeking

funding for it at this time, although the Governor has said that the University would need to find two-thirds of the funding first before it asks the state for resources. The University will approach private sources for funding, but a stadium might also affect students through a student fee, similar to the one being used to pay for Coffman.

Barbara Brandt said that the argument from the state is that it should not pay for higher education for students who are likely to leave the state upon graduation.

Gina Jennissen said that health care professionals are more likely to stay in the state after graduation, but that graduate students many times leave to enter the professional academic world.

Q: Will the University push to decrease non-resident students?

A: Some institutions have a 10 percent cap on non-resident students, but many other institutions want more non-resident students since they bring in more tuition dollars.

Q: Is tuition ever likely to decrease?

A: No. The trend is for tuition to increase, with a few periods of stability.

Q: What is defined as a 'better' institution?

A: 'Better' is hard to determine since there are many ratings done each year on programs and institutions. The ratings from USA News are skewed, but unfortunately students look at them when making choices. It is very hard to compare programs and institutions since there are so many differences.

Members made the following comments:

- Students tend to think of the school as something for themselves
- Many students do not want to practice in rural areas or some specialties due to their debt
- Students need to show health care as a public good
- University is sole source of most health care education in the area
- Problem for students when faculty do not have time for them because of research and service
- Most talk about tuition is at the undergraduate level; there needs to be more discussions about the tuition impact on graduate and professional students

Q: How can the committee help?

A: Members need to be advocates for professional school training, and its differences from undergraduate education. Members can also attend the annual college meeting with Dr. Cerra and listen to what other students have to say.

In closing, Gina Jennissen distributed information on the Legislative Network, noting that every graduate and professional student should become a member. The website provides easy information on how to contact legislators about students key issues. She also noted that February 18 is Lobby Day and encouraged as many students as possible to attend.

2. METRO TRANSIT LETTER

With several amendments, the letter was approved.

3. 2004-05 AHC SCC REPRESENTATIVES

Kim Canfield asked that any member who cannot serve again next year should look for someone this year to serve as their replacements. These replacements can be invited to the remaining spring semester meetings.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Kim Canfield informed members of the Medical School Aging Seminar, University Lobby Day, the Legislative Network, and three upcoming round table discussions. There was also an article in the paper about the University pursuing stem cell research, which might be a topic to discuss with Dr. Cerra this spring. Lastly, after the announcement at the last meeting that

Dental students needed more patients, there was an increase in clients.

With no other business, Kim Canfield thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert
University Senate