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# The University Senate

FACULTY · STUDENT · P&A · CIVIL SERVICE

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## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

### Health Sciences Student Consultative Committee (HS SCC)

April 27, 2022

### 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 reflect the views of, nor are they binding on, the senate, the administration, or the Board of Regents.*

[In these minutes: Discussion on Endorsement on School of Public Health (SPH) Student Senate Letter on Student Health Benefits; Election of 2022-23 HS SCC Chair or Co-Chairs]

**PRESENT:** Panhia Her (co-chair), Cheyton Homan, Christina Waselk, Richard Sather, Sruthi Shankar, Rachel Hugenroth, Laura Dammer Hess

**REGRETS:** Savannah Middlestead (co-chair), Jalee Krueger, Chloe Miller, Cynthia Pando, Sophia Sterling

**ABSENT:** Ramla Noor, Jenny Fournier, Rebecca Kruc, Momina Chaudry

**GUESTS:** Emily McGuire, president, SPH Student Senate  
Erin Collins, senator, SPH Student Senate

**OTHERS:** None

Panhia Her, co-chair of the HS SCC, welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves.

**1. Discussion on Endorsement on School of Public Health (SPH) Student Senate [Letter on Student Health Benefits](#)** - Her introduced Emily McGuire, president, SPH Student Senate, and Erin Collins, senator, SPH Student Senate, who presented a letter to the committee regarding student health benefits. McGuire indicated that in order to qualify for health insurance through the University's student health benefits program, students must meet a minimum requirement of in-person classes. She further stated that this requirement has created a barrier for students, especially during the pandemic which caused multiple courses to go online or hybrid. McGuire said that these circumstances are leaving certain students without insurance due to these new technical realities. The letter calls on the SPH to find solutions for students who are at risk of losing their coverage. McGuire also suggested that students in other colleges might be

experiencing the same problem which is part of the reason she was presenting the letter to the committee.

Laura Dammer Hess asked if the authors had spoken to students in other mostly online programs about their experiences, such as the Occupational Therapy program. McGuire stated that they had not because, at first, they thought that this was a problem only specific to SPH. She added that she is unaware of how widespread this issue might be. Dammer Hess replied that she would be willing to put the authors in contact with student services directors in different programs.

Rachel Hugentroth noted that a student can utilize an exception for one year and asked if it is used in their undergrad program would they still have a one-year exception as a graduate student. Collins replied that she was not exactly sure how the rule applies over the lifetime of a student's academic career.

Her asked what solutions SPH had already suggested. McGuire replied that if a student does not qualify for student health benefits, they would need to utilize the private market, public options, or go uninsured, which many students opt to do. Her acknowledged the confusing nature of the entire health insurance marketplace as it applies to students. Sruthi Shankar added that many medical students have applied for Minnesota state health insurance (Medicaid) because they meet income requirements.

Christina Waselk asked for clarification on the cost of the student health benefits and Collins replied that the premium is \$1,400 for August to December and \$1,400 for January to August.

**Her moved to have the committee endorse the letter. Hearing no further discussion, a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**2. Election of 2022-23 HS SCC Chair or Co-Chairs** - Her stated that nominations are now open for the position of HS SCC chair for the 2022-23 academic year. No member indicated their immediate willingness to be a candidate and several members mentioned that they will be graduating this spring. Her said that the committee will hold an election at its next meeting in the fall.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office