

**Academic Health Center Student Consultative Committee (AHC SCC)**  
**April 29, 2020**  
**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:** Members Updates; COVID-19 Related Updates for the Health Sciences; Emergency Grant Process for Students]

**PRESENT:** Cameron Wing (chair), Melissa Ferguson, Yazan Alkhatib, Jenna Gardner, Leah Soderberg, Molly Palecek, Evan Odean, Adam Cooling

**REGRETS:** None

**ABSENT:** Nathan Backowski, Lindsay Johnson, Stephany Beaulieu, Theresa Heitz

**GUESTS:** None

**OTHERS:** Laura Dammer Hess, Trevor Ames

Cameron Wing, chair, AHC SCC, welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves.

**1. Member Updates** - Wing asked members to provide an update of any issues or happenings in their programs. He stated that the pharmacy program is doing well in its adaptation to online learning. Currently, the most concerning disruption could be students performing their summer rotations.

Jenna Gardner stated that for the dental hygiene program, it has been difficult to transition away from the clinics and students' normal work. She said that there has been a bit of a breakdown in communication between clinic directors and the program administrators. More updates from the colleges and administration would be appreciated for student benefit.

Molly Palecek commented that the Occupational Therapy program has been going well since it was already a hybrid in-person and online model. The program has also had some disruptions with clinical work.

Leah Soderberg said that the clinical medical students were pulled off rotations in mid-March. Currently, the tentative plan is for students to come back on clinical rotations in September, but that timeframe is currently unknown. The program is trying to create a much more hybrid model for online learning as well. Overall there is a lot of anxiety among students because of the unknowns for when students can perform their prescribed work in order to become accredited.

**2. COVID-19 Related Updates for the Health Sciences** - Wing introduced Trevor Ames, associate vice president, Academic Health Sciences, to provide an update on several of the changes happening in the health sciences due to the COVID-19 health emergency. Ames reported that he has been in touch with all of the associate deans and program directors in charge of each college or program. He stated that this year's graduating class will in fact graduate relatively ontime, with exceptions being delays to the dentistry and occupational therapy programs. The University has worked hard with each discipline's accreditation body to adapt to the current circumstances. Almost all preclinical classes have moved online for the spring and summer terms. Should classes resume in-person in the fall, the University will have to rely on guidance from state officials for the safety of the community.

Ames continued by stating that certain medical labs require core competencies prior to student advancement, however some exemptions will be granted to students who can demonstrate their work. Clinical experiences may be changed as well where a three week experience may now be pared down to a one week experience. Programs may also rely on telehealth and virtual visits to qualify for clinical work. Re-entry into the clinical area full time will be driven by what the state allows and a lot of that will be determined by appropriate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). The University has to balance the certification of students with their safety.

Wing asked about student-run clinics and when they could possibly reopen. Ames replied that those clinics will be on the same schedule as the University and other healthcare clinics, depending on state guidance, as well as PPE availability. Ames added he recognizes the need to serve the community while also working to stop the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, students need the appropriate training to work in this new reality of healthcare. Congregate care facilities, such as nursing homes, are particularly challenging due to the higher infection rate at those facilities.

Wing asked Ames if he could prognosticate what the fall semester would look like. Ames was hesitant to provide any specifics due to the amount of unknown information available and if there could possibly be a second wave of infections during the fall. He anticipated that routine and frequent testing will be a powerful tool to utilize to return to campus.

Evan Odean commented that he has seen a drop in student organizations meeting during this time, and the ones that do meet, would like to have the ability to record their meetings for others to view. Palecek commented that they have performed a lot of telehealth between Rochester and the Twin Cities and do need to be compliant with HIPAA regulations. Laura Dammer Hess commented that she had not heard of that concern but it may be an information technology issue. She added that she would bring this issue to the attention of the Office for Student Affairs.

**3. Emergency Grant Process for Students** - Wing introduced Chris Kwapick, senate associate, University Senate Office, to provide information regarding a new emergency grant process for students. Kwapick stated that the Senate Committee on Student Affairs recently met and Julie Selander, director, One Stop Student Services, provided an overview of the Twin Cities

campus's new application process for a streamlined emergency grant process for students. Kwapick provided the following [document](#) to the committee and explained that with the recent COVID-19 health emergency, students have had the need for emergency funding in order to relocate off campus or facilitate other logistical issues. He said that the Office of One Stop Student Services had previously been working on a streamlined process for students to apply for emergency funding. With the pandemic impacting the world, this project was moved to the forefront for completion.

Kwapick explained that emergency funds are available for students from a variety of sources, including donors, academic programs or units, and other sources of revenue. The process of accessing these funds may be confusing for students so One Stop made the process much simpler. A student only needs to send a request to [onestop@umn.edu](mailto:onestop@umn.edu) in order to start the process. One Stop sends the student a simple intake form for them to complete. Upon receipt of the in-take form, One Stop does an individual, holistic review and communicates with the student regarding the award of emergency funds. In addition to funds, Kwapick said, One Stop also provides information on their current financial aid options (if any are available) and also shares a variety of community resources, including links to food shelves, wifi community resources, and mental health services, to name a few.

Odean asked if this service is available to Duluth students. Kwapick replied that each campus should have their own process and that if they send an email to One Stop, they should be able to direct the query to the appropriate facilitators on a system campus. Palecek added that an email came from Scott Lanyon with links for each system campus.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick  
University Senate Office