

**ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
(AHC SCC)  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 5, 2014**

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

[In these minutes: Committee on Committees review; AHC Student Health Benefit Plan discussion; GAPSAs & COGS update]

**PRESENT:** Christine Myers (chair), Melake Araya, Sarah Bahler, Anne Christ, Jamie Dean, David Green, Christopher Kim, Karen Myhrman, Emily Schuster, Hannah Schultz, Andrew Weaver

**GUESTS:** Ann Hagen, assistant program director, Diagnostic and Biological Sciences; Douglas Ernie, program director, UNITE; Andrew McNally, president, Council of Graduate Students; Alfonso Sintjago, president, Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

**OTHERS ATTENDING:** none

**REGRETS:** Anne Christ, Amanda Koethe, Karl Koivisto, Gina Kunden, Renee Larson, George Saakal

## **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Myers convened the meeting and called for introductions.

## **2. COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES REVIEW**

Ann Hagen and Douglas Ernie spoke with the committee as part of the Committee on Committees (ConC) regular function to review senate committees and ask members for recommendations regarding membership and function. They explained that the review is meant to ensure that committee charges are current and that the members feel comfortable working to achieve that charge; this review process occurs on a 4-5 year average cycle.

Ms. Hagen and Mr. Ernie invited all members of the committee to give additional input through email in the weeks following the meeting.

They will draft a report, to be shared with AHC SCC, for consideration by the ConC as a whole. Should the discussion result in any recommendation for change in committee structure, charge, or membership, the written recommendation would be sent to the Senate Consultative Committee and to the University/Faculty Senate at large, as is spelled out in the ConC charge.

Ms. Hagen and Mr. Ernie then led the following discussion:

- Members feel the membership is representative of the colleges.
- Elections are different for each college and the committee elects the chair at the end of the year.
- How has turnover worked in terms of keeping institutional memory?
  - The current and past chairs have done a good job at maintaining continuity.
- Joint meetings with AHC FCC:
  - The chair of the AHC FCC meets with the committee once per year.
- If you could change anything about this committee to make it more useful, what would you do?
  - Each representative should keep records to pass on to the incoming representatives.
  - Elect the college reps earlier so they can attend the last meeting of the year.
  - Meetings are currently more informational than consultative.

### **3. STUDENT SENATE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Sara Ford, member, Student Senate Consultative Committee, attended the meeting to discuss the issue of the inability to use providers outside of Boynton Health Service Pharmacy (BHSP). She explained that AHC students are experiencing issues with this specific part of the health plan, which they did not experience with the AHC Student Health Benefit Plan. Not only are the hours of BHSP restrictive, but in some cases prescriptions are not carried resulting in students paying \$1,700 to prevent a relapse, and in some cases were nearly hospitalized.

She asked if members would support an effort to either add a supplemental pharmacy plan, or change the Student Health Benefit Plan to include outside pharmacy providers. Members at Rochester experienced the same issues with pharmacy.

Ms. Schuster pointed out the differences in coverage explanations located here: <http://www.shb.umn.edu/rochester/ahc-students/shbp/pharmacy-benefits.htm>.

She then read the following passage from the website:

Rochester students enrolled in the Student Health Benefit Plan automatically have pharmacy benefits at any In-Network pharmacy within the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Network. Members will receive a separate prescription ID card from Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Members will be required to present their prescription ID card at time of purchase.

Members agreed that this is very important to support as it is affecting student health. As non-traditional emergency medications tend to be more expensive and at times more necessary, it can be extremely detrimental to a patient's health if they forego these medications due to the cost. Ms. Ford will keep the committee informed of progress on this issue.

#### **4. GAPSAs AND COGS DISCUSSION**

Mr. McNally, president, COGS, began the discussion and explained the Council of Graduate Students (COGS) is the student organization that represents, advocates for, informs, facilitates communications among, and supports graduate students (most students who are seeking a research degree: a Ph.D. or a Masters that is associated with a Ph.D. program). He said that they are currently trying to renegotiate the Graduate Student Health Plan. He has noticed that many students are willing to pay higher copays rather than see a decrease in benefits.

Mr. Sintjago, president, GAPSAs, explained that the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSAs) serves students in the Graduate School, Carlson, Law, Medical, Dental, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health, Veterinary Medicine, and Education Schools and Colleges at the University. He provided members with a handout of the GAPSAs Platform and encouraged members to let them know if there are other issues that need to be included. He encouraged AHC SCC students to attend GAPSAs meetings and other AHC students as well because they need more AHC representation.

The discussion was then open for comments and questions:

- GAPSAs
  - Have you seen effects from the freezing of GAPSAs funds?
    - Mr. Sintjago said that they are discussing emergency funding plans due to the freezing of GAPSAs funds. They are hoping that they will be unfrozen in the next few weeks.
    - Office for Student Affairs has expressed that they do not feel it is fair for the pass through funding to be frozen. It is felt that there is not enough transparency within the process. The councils will need to show details for their requests in general. In his opinion, it is not a request that is beyond information that the councils already record. They are adding a grant system for unexpected fund requests that the councils might have not included in their budgets.

- Mr. Sintjago emphasized the importance of graduate and professional students being present at the Support the U Day.
- COGS
  - A Graduate Student Bill of Rights has been drafted:
    - Graduate student employees, advisees, and within other roles should be included within existing policies to prevent future issues. This effort has gained support and Mr. McNally invited members to learn more about the process of creating this document. A draft is located at: [www.cogs.umn.edu](http://www.cogs.umn.edu).
    - This effort is also advocating for graduate students to be consulted for situations such as: degree requirements changing mid-program.
  - Career Services
    - They are often lacking and they are for more of these resources to be provided because they have not been maintained after the closing of the Graduate School.
  - Advocacy and community engagement
    - They have discussed extending state grants for student parents to graduate and professional students.

Hearing no further business, Ms. Myers adjourned the meeting.

Jeannine Rich  
University Senate Office