

Health Sciences Student Consultative Committee (HS SCC)
April 28, 2021
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:** Update and Discussion with HS FCC; Consultation on PEAK (Positioned for Excellence, Alignment, and Knowledge) Initiative; Election of HS SCC Chair for 2021-22 Academic Year]

PRESENT: Grace Eang, Seonmi Park, Sruthi Shankar, Savannah Middlestead, Rachel Hugenroth, Tingyoung Ou, Cynthia Pando

REGRETS: Panhia Her (chair), Jenny Fournier

ABSENT: Laesia Jimenez, Sydney Fulcher, Sarah Alabsi, Cristina Wagner, Molly Palecek, Stephany Beaulieu

GUESTS: Barbara McMorris, chair, Health Sciences Faculty Consultative Committee (HS FCC); Erin Heath, chair, P&A Consultative Committee; Weronika Wasilewski, Huron Consulting Group; Whitney Henry, Huron Consulting Group

OTHERS: None

Savannah Middlestead, interim chair, welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves.

1. Update and Discussion with HS FCC - Middlestead introduced Barbara McMorris, chair, Health Sciences Faculty Consultative Committee (HS FCC), who provided an update and overview of the happenings within the HS FCC. McMorris indicated that she met with HS SCC Chair Panhia Her a few weeks ago and agreed it would be a good idea for them to visit with each other's committees. She shared that while she works in the School of Nursing, she is a sociologist by trade. McMorris emphasized that interprofessional relationships are extremely important and she believes a major part of her role is to create opportunities for collaboration within the health sciences.

McMorris further stated that in her role as chair of the HS FCC, she is also a member of the Faculty Consultative Committee (FCC), which provides her with ample opportunity to engage with upper administration on a number of issues affecting the University. Current issues that the HS FCC are looking into include the possibility of requiring COVID-19 vaccination for students. She said that while the University cannot require students in general to receive a vaccination, students in clinical and other frontline settings may be required. Additionally, McMorris indicated that Her informed the HS FCC of the often discussed issue of backward navigation on

exams within the College of Pharmacy. She stated that the committee is currently looking into this issue, especially given the fact that faculty are being encouraged to be as flexible as possible. Rachel Hugenroth thanked McMorris for her advocacy on this issue as it is a real problem that is having a big impact on students, especially those with disabilities. Middlestead commented that there seems to be a major disconnect between faculty and students on this issue.

Cynthia Pando asked if McMorris had any indication about whether those attending in person classes in the fall will be required to get vaccinated or if there will be hybrid classes like in the School of Public Health. McMorris replied that it is her understanding that each program will be allowed to create its own plan for whatever works best for its students.

McMorris concluded by stating that the HS FCC is going through a bit of a transition and is working to re-write its committee charge to better incorporate itself into the new health sciences format that was previously under the umbrella of the now defunct Academic Health Center (AHC). She hopes to continue to have productive conversations to move that committee forward and acknowledged that keeping students in the fold will be for the benefit of the entire community.

2. Consultation on PEAK (Positioned for Excellence, Alignment, and Knowledge) Initiative

- Middlestead introduced Erin Heath, chair, P&A Consultative Committee, who explained that the University is currently conducting a review of its administrative functions through the PEAK (Positioned for Excellence, Alignment, and Knowledge) Initiative. Heath then introduced Whitney Henry and Weronika Wasilewski from the Huron Consulting Group who presented a [slide deck](#) about the initiative to the committee, and highlights were as follows:

- The PEAK Initiative focuses on developing new approaches to providing administrative and support services across a wide range of functions. The objective of the project is to identify ways to increase efficiency, improve service, or gain capacity to support the mission.
- They indicated that there will not be a one size fits all approach, especially in regard to the University's system campuses.
- PEAK is intended to analyze several functional areas, but is not aimed at any academic functions.
- PEAK is currently developing its guiding principles and will likely include an emphasis on being equitable and inclusive for diverse populations, utilization and leveraging of technology where appropriate, and optimizing efficiency.
- The approach to this project will build on qualitative and quantitative feedback and analysis to develop opportunities and recommendations summarized in a final report due July 2021.
- The Huron Administrative Activity Study (HAAS) will be sent out to ~7,000 employees across the University of Minnesota campuses on April 19th, which will capture data regarding administrative effort. The intent of the survey is to help identify areas and individuals who may be "wearing multiple hats" or duplicating efforts or services.

McMorris asked if this initiative will address specific areas within the health sciences, such as student information technology support. Pando added that in her experiences she would always

go to individuals within her department for assistance on a wide range of services, including IT. She said that it could be beneficial for more centralized services as some of the departmental individuals may not have the required expertise in an area. It would be helpful to de-silo services when possible. Middlestead agreed that there are similar issues with the College of Pharmacy students on the Duluth campus and having to be connected to the main school in the Twin Cities. Henry thanked the committee and asked the members to spread information about the initiative into their own communities.

3. Election of HS SCC Chair for 2021-22 Academic Year - Middlestead indicated that there was not a quorum for a vote on the election of next year's chair. She stated that the nomination and election process will be held electronically.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Chris Kwapick
University Senate Office