

[In these minutes: Student Health Insurance, Web Portal]

## **ACADEMIC HEALTH CENTER STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (AHC SCC) MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 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:** Mark Wiisanen, Chair (Medical School – 4<sup>th</sup> Year), Paul Behrens (Pharmacy), Rebecca Floyd (Dental Hygiene), Beth Hagen (Duluth Pharmacy), Stephanie Hvinden (Nursing), Jennifer Marr (Nursing – Rochester), Julie Nitz (Mortuary Science), Jeremy Olsen (Medical School – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year), Katherine Peterson (Veterinary Medicine), Jeff Pinnow (Duluth School of Medicine), Wendy Ruffedt (Occupational Therapy), Sarah Walker (Physical Therapy), Amy Walsh (Medical Technology).

**REGRETS:** Anna Abt (Public Health), Alisa Madson (Dentistry), Kristen Thorstenson (Medical School – 2<sup>nd</sup> Year).

**GUESTS:** Janet Shanedling.

### **1. STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

Jeremy Olsen asked members for student feedback to the proposed student health insurance options. The consensus from committee members was that students are supportive of financial aid being increased to cover the cost of the insurance. Most students who are married or have children were supportive of Option 2, while single students wanted Option 1. Since the majority of AHC students are single, the committee decided to recommend Option 1 since it will benefit the most students.

The committee then discussed how to notify and educate students about the insurance plan that is chosen. Members agreed that a paper brochure will need to be sent to a home address since most AHC students just skim or delete emails. Open forums should also be planned to explain the plan and answer questions.

Jeremy Olsen then stated that he and Matt Wiisanen recently met with the AHC deans and discussed the student health insurance options. They also raised student dental insurance and asked that options be developed that students can consider in the future.

### **2. WEB PORTAL**

Janet Shanedling joined the meeting to discuss the proposed web portal redesign. She noted that the AHC web portal was originally designed for the HIPAA training and has not been updated since. The AHC now wants to redesign the site to meet the needs of AHC students. A similar site was done for incoming freshmen this year and it receives 1500 hits per day from the 5000 student users. It featured some parts of the screen common to all students with other parts tailored to each student.

AHC Student Service professionals were asked what their students would like to see on the site. Their ideas were: an overview of the AHC, a complete program listing with links to those sites, virtual AHC tours, AHC student life and service information, procedures on training and immunizations, and a listing of University offices.

She then asked the committee what AHC students would like to see on their web portal. Members made the following recommendations:

- Hospital and off-campus site maps
- Housing and transportation information geared to AHC students
- Transition information for Duluth and transfer students
- How to navigate the Twin Cities
- Entertainment
- Mass transit options versus parking
- Campus bus information

- Access to information before starting in a program
- U-Pass
- Child care
- Information on local neighborhoods including student feedback
- Roommate matching
- Class lists before classes start
- Study group information
- Car pooling sign-ups
- Campus-specific information for Duluth and Rochester
- Duluth and Twin Cities pages should be the same to make one less transition
- Specific college and department links
- Easy access to email, one-stop, library, Medline, and Avid links

Janet Shanedling thanked the members for the information and said that she would return next semester with a demonstration of the redesigned site.

### **3. OTHER BUSINESS**

Amy Walsh said that Occupational Therapy and Medical Technology are both involved in a letter writing campaign and meetings to save the programs. They are hoping to generate more student support for Allied Health fields that do not fit into the Medical School but promote interdisciplinary health education.

Jeremy Olsen said that he and Matt Wiisanen had a conversation with AHC deans regarding the future of healthcare. They said that it is the students' responsibility and ability to engage the public and legislation about healthcare. Education needs to take place regarding what students want and what the community sees. A forum was suggested to which the public and legislators would be invited with an open discussion about healthcare from an interdisciplinary approach.

Matt Wiisanen noted that healthcare was a hot topic during the Presidential debates but that no statistics or specific proposals were ever discussed. However, there are stark contrasts between the two proposals, but the public is not informed about them. If the candidates will not address these issues, then AHC students need to.

A member noted that AHC students need to be educated first, since they are an untapped resource to lobby for healthcare. Most experiences with doctors are overwhelmed by the costs that people pay, which equates to most not liking the healthcare system. Most people do not see the two as separate.

Matt Wiisanen then provided a flu vaccine update, noting that they will be provided at Boynton if students are eligible, which means that they need to have direct patient contact.

A member said that there were fewer people than expected when the vaccine was given the previous week. Two members then noted that the vaccine is not being provided outside the Twin Cities so those students, which have direct patient contact, are not going to be vaccinated.

With no other business, Matthew Wiisanen thanked the members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Becky Hippert  
University Senate