HSC FACULTY ASSEMBLY  
University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center  
May 31, 2005 Minutes  
MINUTES

Attendees: Executive Vice Chancellor Jay Gershen (representing Chancellor Shore), Dennis Lezotte (Chair), Claire Collins, Ed Abraham, Lewis Pizer, David Port, Marilyn Krajicek, Laurie Shroyer, Donna Stach, Clyde Tucker, and Daniel Wilson.

Tele-Conference with Fitzsimons Campus: Dr. Mike Glode and Catherine Bedell participated via teleconference in from the Fitzsimons campus.

Excused Absences: Rob Berg, Elizabeth D’Antonio-Gan, Dick Bakemeier, Carlos Catalano, Leslie Jameson, Madeleine Kane, Sue Hagedom, John Sbarbaro, Marie Hastings-Tolsma, David Thompson, and Carla Vanderberg.

Guests: Vice President Jack Burns, Associate Vice Chancellor Marguerite Childs, Vice Chancellor John Sladek, Vice Chancellor Teresa Berryman, Louise Vale, Hollie Stevenson, and Kim Glasscock (Silver and Gold)

I. Call to Order and Meeting Minutes Approval:

Dr. Lezotte welcomed members. The meeting minutes from the April 26, 2005 were reviewed and approved.

II. HSC Campus Working Group on Tenure: The UCHSC campus working group for the University of Colorado Tenure Process Review was reviewed. Nominations from the Faculty Assembly of the Heath Sciences Center were approved. Our campus’ working committee to support the system-wide Tenure Review process includes:

Chairperson: Dr. William Marine
Other Members: Marguerite Childs (Academic Affairs), Larry Meskin (SOD), Denise Webster (SON), Steve Lowenstein (SOM), and Carlos Catalano (SOP)

III. Nominations for the Faculty Assembly: Dr. Lezotte reminded everyone and requested a slate of faculty nominations for the June 28th meeting. A nomination for faculty assembly President-Elect must come from either the Schools of Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry or the Graduate School. Additionally, there several outstanding faculty council committee positions that are vacant and should be filled with at least one HSC representative. Dr. Lezotte requested that faculty consider volunteering to serve on one or more of these committees. Dr. Glode noted that these committee positions are important and are essential to marinating representation in the University’s shared governance model. One committee, for example the Budget Committee, has considerable input into planning and overseeing the system-wide budget processes. Dr. Pizer noted that it will be important to coordinate our goals for campus-level shared governance activities with the new Chancellor.

IV. Budget Challenges: Ms. Berryman discussed the challenges we are facing in the 2005-2006 budget allocations. Most likely, the UCHSC campus will encounter a $4-$4.5 million short-fall this coming budget year. Most likely, the final budget will be set by the end of June. In an effort to offset budget shortfalls, the Board of Regents will consider a significant increase in tuition and fees at its retreat this week. However, a final decision on the actual increase is not expected until the end of June.

Ms. Berryman provided handouts regarding a commissioned UCHSC State Funding Benchmark study. She summarized the findings provided in this Price-Waterhouse-Cooper study. An extensive search for appropriate peer institution was conducted to identify several qualified — public, similar sized, and school-specific for peers. School-specific peer institutions were used to compared State-related support for academic programs. In summary:

- The School of Dentistry is at 81% of mean;
- The School of Medicine is at 54% of the mean state support and receives the lowest State General funds compared to all the other peer institutions and is the most leveraged;
- The Nursing School is close to the mean (103%); and
- The School of Pharmacy is at 75% of mean.
This independent report will help to address the needs for differential school cuts recently initiated to address the structural deficits compared to other campuses. It was noted that increases in tuition alone will no longer address our long-term funding shortfalls. This approach relies on both rates and enrollment increases; yet the marginal impact of tuition increases will not sustain the underlying fundamental problem of significant annual budget cuts. See attached PowerPoint presentation. The complete lengthy report is available upon request at 303-315-7527.

Dr. Glode asked if there is a strategic plan in place during these tight budget times to address the need for increased funding from the State. Discussions of different strategies to address this challenge occurred without specific recommendations. Ms. Berryman noted as some level of state support that the State Legislature approved $203M through COP funding. She was asked by Dr Lezotte whether this really reflects state support since it required the University to give up significant cigarette settlement money designated for research and it is basically represents a loan that must be paid back. Ms. Stevenson noted that a successful lobbying team was able to forestall cuts over the last two years, due in part because of the legislators’ understanding of Higher Education and specifically HSC’s status as a significant economic engine for the State of Colorado.

The State Legislature is limited in increasing funding to Higher Education because of the Tabor Amendment. TABOR limits how much the State Budget can grow. In recent times, the State budget’s base has been reduced because of TABOR’s ratcheting-down effects. She noted that faculty members should review the email message that President Hoffman recently mailed regarding referendums C and D, and that there will be additional information on the President’s website. Faculty should be advised that they can only advocate or lobby for the referendums as private citizens and they are prohibited from lobbying or using University resources for any lobbying or support efforts. Executive Vice Chancellor Jay Gershen noted that the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce has taken a lead by conducting significant public relations and media fund-raising initiatives to inform the public about these two upcoming ballot items. Vice President Burns and Ms. Stevenson noted that the Board of Regents is considering approval of a resolution in support of the Referendums on Saturday, June 4.

Vice Chancellor Sladek noted that campus funding support from UCHSC research is probably at full capacity and there is little chance for significant increase in these funds. Dr. Sladek noted that the dollars/investigator is in the top tier – where 60-80% of salaries/benefits are leveraged to the greatest amount possible. In the absence of State of Colorado funding, perhaps re-organization and centralization may be important options to consider. The State of Colorado needs to decide if the University of Colorado wants a great research University – and if so, then fund it appropriately? Vice President Burns is optimistic and hopeful about referendum C and D passing. Vice President Burns also noted that the President’s office will consider requesting an increase in the Fee for Service Contract next year, which would be positive for HSC. Dr. Glode noted that the Fitzsimons campus and recruitment issues required thoughtful attention in the coming year. Executive Vice Chancellor Gershen noted that perhaps that enterprise status may add flexibility for cost savings, as well as future revenue generation.

V. President’s Office Update: Vice President Burns provided an overview of the key transitional issues while moving from President Hoffman to President Brown.

A. Relocation: the President’s Office has conducted an analysis of the potential relocation of the President’s office. The report will be presented to the Regents for their consideration at their next meeting. No decision is expected at the upcoming meeting. Dr. Shroyer inquired whether or not tele/video conferencing would be an important communication modality between the President’s office (irrespective of location) and the campuses in the future. Vice President Burns responded affirmatively.

B. Tuition and Fee increases will be discussed at the upcoming Board meeting.

C. Searches for Chancellors of UCDHSC and Boulder campuses, Vice President for Budget and Finance, and also the Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance and Treasurer will be conducted during this transition phase. The Board will provide a formal charge for a new president’s search at its upcoming meeting. And then a national search will be underway. A presidential search typically takes between six to twelve months. The Regent’s rules do not provide for an “interim president.” President Brown may or may not be considered as a candidate in the future. The Presidential search committee is putting together an RFP for a search firm to assist in the recruitment process. Dr. Glode noted that any names for the Chancellor’s search committee are sincerely welcomed.
D. Structural Reorganization/Compliance: Further investment in research compliance, financial and performance audit procedures, and procedures for administrative policies, and investment in a sponsored programs grants and contracts database, AHARP oversight (a full-time accreditation director for human subjects research), a new Student Information System is being evaluated, and a new focus on research, gift, grants, clinical funding and indirect cost recovery.

E. Performance Contracts: The performance contracts offer several new opportunities for entrepreneurial endeavors to foster new revenues with industry, other Universities (e.g., CSU – bio-defense initiative), fee-for-service, Centers of Excellence, outreach throughout the State, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (biosciences park). Aggressive leadership is now a transition issue.

F. System-wide Tenure Review Process: The process is underway with three Regents and the taskforce chaired by Provost Heckler. The goal is to finish its review by the end of the year. Given the scope and nature of the work this may take a bit longer.

G. Support for Tabor Reform: Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce is leading several initiatives that support the passage of Referendums C and D due to their concerns about the downward levels of state funding to state Universities.

H. Diversity, Safety, and Other Issues

VI. Chancellor’s Office Report:

Executive Vice Chancellor Gershen noted that commencement was successful, and he provided his congratulations to the entire Office of Academic Affairs team for an outstanding job.

In early April, the Colorado Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the University’s position regarding the Certificates of Participation (COP’s). The Plaintiffs appealed the Court of Appeal’s Decision regarding the COP’s to the Supreme Court last week. We are optimistic that the Supreme Court will decide whether or not to take the case before it goes into summer recess the end of June. If the Supreme Court denies the Plaintiffs appeal, groundbreaking for COP funded buildings could take place this summer. If the Court accepts the Plaintiff’s case, a decision may not be reached until late fall. Dr. Sladek and Ms. Childs noted other ground-breakings include: RC2 and the new BioEthics Center.

Dr. Gershen noted that in May 2006 a Colfax Marathon is being planned and supported by the three county mayors: Aurora, Denver and Lakewood.

Ms. Childs mentioned that North Central approved accreditation of UCDHSC; and the next visit will not take place until 2011. Congratulations to the Office of Academic Affairs.

VI. School-Based Updates

Dr. Port noted that there was nothing to report on behalf of the Graduate School.

No representative of the School of Pharmacy was present.

Dr. Tucker noted there was no news currently to report.

Dr. Krajicek noted that seven SON faculty vacancies were being filled. This was very exciting news to see these recruitments going forward. School starts June 6th

Adjournment: Dr. Lezotte thanked members for coming. The meeting for June 28th was announced with special guests. Dr. Lezotte adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A. Laurie W. Shroyer, Ph.D.