Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2016 – November 18, 2015 – UCT-1726

Present: Dr. Anne Sereno, Dr. Lanny Ling, Dr. Jake Chen, Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Dr. Joan Bull, Dr. Marie-Francoise Doursout, Dr. Daniel Freet, Dr. Anil Kulkarni, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. George Williams, Dr. Amy Franklin, Dr. Tiffany Champagne for Dr. James Langabeer II, Dr. Kurtis Kasper, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Dr. Amity Gardner for Cameron Jeter, Dr. Martina Gallagher, Dr. Rebecca Helmreich, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Linda Highfield, Dr. Dejian Lai, and Mr. Julio Charles.

Absent: Dr. George Stancel (Ex Officio), Dr. Bilociler-Denktas, Dr. David Marshak (Ex Officio), Dr. Bindu Akkanti, Dr. Davide Cattano, Dr. Trevor Cohen, Dr. Dean Sittig, Dr. Jennifer Sanner, Dr. Ross Shegog, Ms. Kathy Rodgers (Ex Officio), and Ms. Margaret Wang.

Ex-Officio Attendees: Mr. Eric Solberg and Ms. Deanne Hernandez

Guest: Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, President, UTHealth

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER
Dr. Anne Sereno, 2015-2016 IFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Dr. Sereno polled the members for any objections or corrections required to the minutes for September 16, 2015. Upon motion made and seconded, the September 16, 2015 minutes were approved, as written, by majority vote with one abstention.

Dr. Sereno polled the members for any objections or corrections required to the minutes for October 21, 2015. Upon motion made and seconded, the October 21, 2015 minutes were unanimously approved, as written.

III. NEW BUSINESS

PRESIDENT REPORT
Dr. Giuseppe N. Colasurdo

Dr. Sereno advised the members that President Colasurdo’s calendar permitted his attendance today. Dr. Colasurdo thanked Dr. Sereno for the invitation and advised that he would drop by on occasion as his schedule permitted. He advised the attendees on the efforts and news from his office, as follows:

- The School of Public Health officially will have a new Dean, effective January 2016.
- New real estate transactions are:
  - UTHealth is purchasing the library building, known as JIL. The closing will be in January as the Board of Regents has already approved the purchase. The purchase was approximately $33 million for the land and building and $23 million has been committed for renovations over the next five years.
  - The TMC 3 proposal is a very ambitious project – over $2 billion. The land is between the South Campus and McNair Baylor Campus. It will be a four anchor research institution (Baylor, MD Anderson, Texas A&M, and UTHealth) with a double helix in the middle. A large hotel/conference center will be in that location as well as we have been advised that the parking will accommodate 5700 spots. UTHealth has not signed any financial commitment, at this time.
III. **NEW BUSINESS - Continued**

- UT System has purchased over 300 acres of land south of the 610 loop, south of Main, between Holmes and Belfort Roads. It is an investment for UT System and probably will not be developed for the next 5-10 years.

Dr. Colasurdo entertained questions from the attendees as follows:

- Are there plans to connect the buildings with overpasses?
  - Expect to connect the JLL to the Medical School and possibly to Memorial Hermann.

- Worldwide events have caused concern with security. Are we reevaluating the security in the Medical Center; and, will there be any changes in terms of visibility in the short term?
  - Our Chancellor is very credible in this area and there are efforts going on now. My expectation is that there will be more information from Austin within the next six months. Also, Chief Adcox has advised of an initiative with MD Anderson that will increase their presence, 24/7.

- Concerns were raised regarding the Governor’s stance on refugees. As a university, what would we be able to do to raise our concerns?
  - Dr. Colasurdo reminded the group that the Office of Governmental Affairs is available to all faculty for guidance in this regard.

- Is the UT System land purchase possibly interfering with the TMC project?
  - As a quick follow-up:
    - The library will be a straight UTHealth purchase. We will buy it and we will own it.
    - Two other proposals are on the table:
      - TMC 3 is a project that brings in outside people and lease the $2 billion development to all the constituents. The aggressive plan schedule is for completion in time for the Super Bowl in 2017. UT System and MDACC prefer to buy instead of lease; Baylor would like to lease; and A&M would prefer a combination. There has been a slight pause in the discussions upon learning of the UT System land purchase; however, the expectation is that discussions will continue.
      - UT System’s 300 acre land purchase could allow expansion of UT Austin programs. There will be a task force to determine the strategic development of the land.

**UTFAC Meeting Updates:**

**Dr. Donald Molony**

A summary from the UTFAC meeting was presented to the council. Points of discussion included:

- Vice Chancellor Patricia Hurn convened a UT System task force to re-write UT System Policy 125, the policy implementing *Regent’s Rule 90101, Intellectual Property: Preamble, Scope, and Authority*. The overall consensus on the policy is that there will be no change to the Regents’ Rule.
  - The plan is to include in the new UT System Policy 125, a preamble stating a number of principles of operation, which would include a clear acknowledgement of the role of the creator in any of the activities going forward with the intellectual property.
  - One of the goals of this is for intellectual property to be commercialized to the benefit of the UT institutions as well as to the benefit to the faculty.
III. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

- Another principle that is being committed to is timelines that are consistent with the resources available within the institutions. A separate task force is to be convened to look at the institutional resources required to be committed to making this all work.
- Dr. Cheng with UT Southwestern, has pushed for measurement of outcomes as there is no measurement of whether we have achieved a specific goal, and particular, trying to track all those who have a Form G Waiver.
- Dr. Molony advised the attendees about a separate proposal currently in discussion with Dr. Hurn and her Academic counterpart, regards developing a ‘small grant program’ from UT System. The intent would be for specifically targeted rising stars on our campuses or those established investigators who need additional support to do that next project to allowing them more time to obtain funding. The model for this funding is the UT Brain Initiative.
- The chancellor and executive vice chancellor are interested in the faculty governance organizations being fully engaged in all areas that they should be engaged in, and partnered in the decision-making processes. There is a new vice chancellor that has been assigned to explore the best and worst practices that impact all campuses to help foster the best practices. More information will be provided in the near future on this activity.

**IFC Meeting Attendance:**

*Dr. Sereno*

Dr. Sereno provided a copy of the IFC By-Laws and explained the rules for loss of appointment. If any member is absent for three consecutive meetings or four absences within the year, according to the bylaws, the member would be replaced. She advised that Section 6 (see below) provides that a member may solicit another school faculty member to attend on their behalf for up to three IFC meetings per year. This is an excellent way for the members to provide for school representation and not lose appointment, when times arise that the member must miss the meeting.

“Section 6: Loss of IFC Appointment
Any member of Interfaculty Council, other than ex officio, who is absent from three consecutive or four total regular/special meetings during an academic year shall forfeit their position and be replaced by another representative of the school using the procedures for filling vacancies in Section 5 of these bylaws. The Secretary of the IFC shall monitor attendance and implement loss of appointment procedures on behalf of the Chair. A member may select another faculty member to represent him/her at a meeting; however, an alternate representative may be used for no more than three IFC meetings per year.”

**Interfaculty Report and Plan:**

*Dr. Sereno*

Dr. Sereno thanked the attendees for their participation in several efforts, providing a summary as follows:

- Report on faculty governance was generated from all schools. The final copy was distributed to all IFC members and Dr. Sereno requested that the information be disseminated to the school constituency. This report went to Dr. Colasurdo as well as to UT FAC.
- Report on intellectual property was done by the Executive Committee based on presentations done in September 2015. The recommendation was to charge the IFC’s **Administrative Affairs Subcommittee** to pursue a survey to gather faculty experiences with commercialization. Dr. Ross Shegog is the chair of this subcommittee. Examples of survey information will regard the bottle necks in the process; where the bottle necks possibly come from, etc., with the outcome of providing input to the policy to be developed at the System level. It was noted that this effort
must happen quickly as Dr. Patricia Hurn would like to see this completed in the very near future. Dr. Shegog will be sending a short survey to his subcommittee to be analyzed, and possibly will report back to the IFC by December. If there are specific issues or concerns, please forward the concerns to Dr. Sereno who will coordinate providing them to the UT FAC representatives for consideration.

Subcommittee Updates:

Faculty Status, Rights, and Responsibilities  

Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Chair
Dr. Actor advised that the subcommittee met and discussed issues that may be helpful to the IFC and university. The subcommittee chose to look at Diversity; where we stand on gender, minority, faculty positions, chair positions, dean positions, and different team positions, and then to compare what diversity looked like 5 years ago to see if we are making progress. The short-term goal is to provide an initial document to the IFC at the December meeting. Dr. Sereno advised that the chancellor, chair of the board of regents, and executive vice chancellor for health affairs, have expressed that diversity and gender were top of their lists. Further, the vice chancellor of strategic initiatives will be focusing on specific data on these issues in UT System.

Governance and Academic Affairs  

Dr. George Williams, Chair
Dr. Williams advised that this subcommittee is charged with building a more useful and universally applicable tool for purposes of peer-to-peer evaluation of faculty teaching. This has become a point of emphasis from the Regents and our goal is to make the tool easily replicable across the institution. The Dental School has a useful tool in this regard, and we plan to meet to apply those materials and then further develop it by adding elements that are helpful to the evaluation process. Our goal is to report back to the IFC in December.

• Question raised concerned how the curriculum committees of each school will be polled as it would be their charge to roll out. Dr. Williams advised that a poll has not been included; the function is to enable each school to facilitate peer-to-peer teaching evaluation to balance out the student evaluations. At this time, we are trying to create a document where we can facilitate additional conversations about the topic.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS  

Mr. Eric Solberg, VP for Academic & Research Affairs  

for Dr. George Stancel, EVP for Academic & Research Affairs

• Minnie Stevens Piper Professor Award is a very prestigious state-wide program that recognizes excellence in teaching across the state —covers all levels of higher education. Each institution can nominate one individual to be considered for one of the ten (10) annual awards. This year, the prior awardees at UTHealth served as the selection committee and they selected Dr. Kay Bartholomew as the nominee from UTHealth.

• Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) call for nominations will be sent out later this week. Up to ten $25,000 awards will be made at UTHealth and this year, the rules state that a nomination may remain active for up to two years, submitting appropriate updates. Also, an awardee may be re-nominated for consideration after four years —so, the awardees from 2012 may be now be re-nominated. UT System’s deadline for submitting materials is March 18, 2016.

• President’s Scholar Award in Research and Teaching call for nominations will also be sent out later this week with the nomination packets being returned by January 8, 2016.
The Campus Carry local working group met and reviewed our campus exclusion zones. The first review of the square footage the breakdown reveals that one-third of our buildings would be in the exclusion area, one-third would be of mixed use, and one-third would permit campus carry of concealed handguns. Dr. Stancel advises that all are welcome to email him with any comments, questions, and concerns. The local working group will make recommendations to President Colasurdo in the first week of December and then President Colasurdo will send his recommendation to UT System.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

The members discussed, further, the concerned raised to Dr. Colasurdo regarding the Governor’s stance on refugees. Several members agreed to draft a statement to bring to the December IFC meeting for discussion.

**ACTION ITEMS:**
- Contact Governmental Relations to arrange time for a brief discussion at the December meeting.
- Send HOOP 183, Equal Opportunity, Discrimination and Harassment, to the IFC members for circulating at their schools for comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo on 12/10/2015.
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 12/16/2015.