Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2016 – April 20, 2016 – UCT-1726

Present: Dr. Anne Sereno, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Dr. Joan Bull, Dr. Daniel Freet, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. David Volk, Dr. George Williams, Dr. Jake Chen, Dr. Lanny Ling, Dr. Trevor Cohen, Dr. James Langabeer II, Dr. Dean Sittig, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Kurtis Kasper, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Dr. Ted Pate for Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Martina Gallagher, Dr. Catherine Reavis, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Rebecca Helmreich, Dr. Dejian Lai, Dr. Ross Shegog, and Dr. Momiao Xiong

Absent: Dr. Bindu Akkanti, Dr. Marie-Francoise Doursout, Dr. Anil Kulkarni, Dr. Amy Franklin, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Linda Highfield, Mr. Julio Charles, and Ms. Margaret Wang

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. George Stancel, Dr. David Marshak, Mr. Eric Solberg, Ms. Deanne Hernandez, and Ms. Kathy Rodgers

Guests: Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, President; Dr. Michael Blackburn, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer; Kevin Dillon, Sr. Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer and Daniel Reat, serving as Interim Chief Legal Officer.

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

CALL TO ORDER  
Dr. Anne Sereno, 2015-2016 IFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:37 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES  
Dr. Anne Sereno

Dr. Sereno polled the members for any objections or corrections required to the minutes for March 16, 2016. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

I. ANNUAL UNIVERSITY UPDATE  
Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo/Dr. Michael Blackburn/Kevin Dillon

Dr. Colasurdo, UTH ealth President, Mr. Kevin Dillon, Sr. Executive Vice President, Chief Operating and Financial Officer and Dr. Michael Blackburn in his new leadership role as Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer attended the IFC meeting to take the opportunity to report University and System updates. Points of these discussions included:

DR. MICHAEL BLACKBURN

• Gave a short introduction of his 20 years at UTH ealth that includes his continued position as Dean of GSBS along with Dr. Michelle Barton, and his new leadership position as Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer (EVP-CAO). He also runs a research lab at the McGovern Medical School in the Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology working on lung disease and training students.
• In his new EVP-CAO role he will be assisting the President at looking how to promote research and academics at all six UTH ealth schools. The President, at the university level, wants to solidify and put in place structure and programs to help the Deans accomplish their goals for their schools.
• One major goal as the new EVP-CAO will be to strategically align academics and research while taking a closer look at research programs across the campus and how to grow them or raise them to higher levels. Possibly having larger grants with multiple faculty across
the schools. Also, how can the institution put in an infrastructure to help faculty come together in an inter-professional, inter-disciplinary manner in the research area? His plan is to help build new programs to increase research expenditures over the next five years.

- He plans to create a Presidential Collaborative Award in which faculty from multiple schools can apply for seed funding for grants. The requirement will be that it has to be faculty from multiple schools working together and will be awarded on scientific merit. The plan for taking those resources is to turn it into data to lead to a very structured grant submission.
- Another area in supporting the deans will be to put programs in place to help the deans with recruitment challenges to recruit talent around the country and the world to bring value to their schools.
- New research space is also included in future research goals at UTHealth. Currently, Dr. Blackburn is heavily involved with the Texas Medical Center on the initiative “TMC3.” This is a collaborative research building process that is very innovative, but still at the stage of getting legal aspects worked out. The idea is to create a new novel research environment on the South Campus where faculty can all come together and create research.

**DISCUSSION: ALLEGATIONS – PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS**

- In Dr. Blackburn’s new position as EVP-CAO he brought up the issue of allegations and public record requests that have been ongoing with a faculty member over the past four years and hoped that the IFC could give some feedback on best practices on handling such issues before they escalate to a higher level.
- These complaints about the institution(s)/programs were all investigated very thoroughly and then ultimately all dismissed, but the concern is how could these allegations possibly been handled before they go to a formal complaint stage.
- One observation noted is that UTHealth seems to be missing the first level of mediating complaints. People may not want to submit a written complaint, so perhaps a more personal approach with these individuals to help sort out the complaint would be beneficial without formalizing the complaint. A more personal intervention with the member.
- Creating an Ombudsman position at UTHealth for faculty could help prevent future allegations, but some members felt that there might not be any resolve for the current situation that seems to be happening with this one faculty member.
- There are a number of policies outlined in the HOOP to handle complaint processes at UTHealth, but there is nothing regarding complaints or allegations going directly to outside entities.

**MOTION: The IFC made a motion to submit a resolution to support the evaluation of the creation of an Ombudsman position to address faculty complaints. The motion was seconded and approved. (Resolution IFC-RS-2016-4-20 is attached as appendix to minutes.)**

**DR. GIUSEPPE COLASURDO/MR. KEVIN DILLON**

- Increasing dependence on clinical services across the country as we see less state and federal funding. What should health-related institutions do in the next 10-20 years to help fund the mission of the universities.
- UT System has assembled the first Advisory Board with its six health-related institutions (HRI’s). Roughly, of about an 18 billion dollar budget, 2/3rds of that comes from six HRI’s, so System feels that a decrease in clinical services would be detrimental to the overall
university operations. We will need to protect what we believe will be the funding sources for universities like ours.

- The new CEO for the Memorial Hermann Hospital System, Dr. Benjamin Chu, comes from Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest health care systems in the country.
- A review of revenue sources for UTHealth was mentioned to help emphasize the importance of increasing and maintaining clinical services for the growth of the university since approximately 60% of the budget comes from clinical services.
- The point being made in these Advisory Board meetings is that unless the system of the clinical services will be competitive in and out of state each of us will be challenged. It is very important as we see the trend in State and federal funding.
- UTHealth’s goal has been having a group practice, not having our own hospital, which is able to have agreements with the health systems in our community in order that we can do population health and we can learn from these risk models.
- Two main initiatives at System level: 1) Clinical Data, and 2) Telemedicine. The Chancellor strongly believes in telemedicine, so they will be funding a State wide initiative lead by UTMB to be able to use technology in rural areas. It is also being discussed that our own School of Biomedical Informatics will lead the effort for clinical data and data integration looking at what is the health of our UT System employees that is currently not known.
- Mr. Dillon reported that with the retirement of Arlene Staller, Chief Legal Officer, Mr. Daniel Reat, has been appointed as interim chief legal counsel while a national search proceeds to fill the position. Mr. Reat comes from MD Anderson Cancer Center and was a previously an employee of UTHealth and an excellent attorney.
- UTHealth will take ownership of the Texas Medical Center library property approximately mid-May of this year (note: actually happened on 6/1/16 per Mr. Dillon).
- TMC3 Project discussion is in progress with expectation to become reality in 2020.
- Mr. Dillon gave a brief update on the annual operating budget with a positive note that UTHealth has had a positive financial margin each of the past 17 years. This small positive net margin allows the university to borrow money for future growth such as the acquisition of the TMC Library and improvements across the campus.
- The institution’s contractual revenue is 55-57% of our total budget.
- Significant growth in enrollment in the past decade can be attributed to SON, SPH and SBMI.
- Declining per student support funding from the State of Texas from current formula funding variable scale even though our growth of enrollment has increased. On a per student basis we are getting about 0.60 cents per student. Schools are challenged by this ever-increasing decline of State funding.

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE CONCERNS REGARDING APRIL 18, 2016 FLOODING:**

- IFC put forward a resolution on the recent flooding that was presented at this meeting requesting that UTHealth review HOOP 141 before the end of the fiscal year in regard to the emergency response process. **ACTION ITEM:** The IFC will vote on acceptance of the resolution through an electronic email vote after the meeting since it was first presented to the group as a whole during the meeting.
- There was concern by members of the IFC of the lack of closure conducted at UTHealth with the ongoing closures that were coming out across the city.
- It was explained that UTHealth does go through a very vigorous emergency management process lead by Dr. Robert Emery, Vice President Safety, Health, Environment and Risk Management, and collectively with institutional leaders
they try and make the best decision with the information presented while at the same time looking at UTHealth hospital partners and clinics.

- It was noted that many of the garages were closed even if people did try to come into the Texas Medical Center, so even though it is a difficult to access there needs to be some means of communication when buildings or garages close within TMC.
- It was also noted by a faculty physician that outpatient clinics need to be thought about as a separate population during these processes.
- Mr. Dillon noted that after these events a follow-up meeting is called to discuss the concerns of the process. He invited the IFC to designate some faculty to attend this follow-up meeting in order to have more input from faculty regarding the concerns of the emergency response process.
- Dr. George Williams volunteered to participate in the upcoming follow up meeting regarding emergency response to the April 18th flood.

II. UTFAC Update

Dr. Donald Molony/Dr. David Marshak

Update will be postponed till the next meeting due to time constraints.

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, June 15, 2016. The May meeting is officially canceled on the calendar.

Respectfully submitted by Kathy Rodgers on June 20, 2016.
Approved by Interfaculty Council on June 22, 2016.