Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  

Present: Dr. Anne Sereno, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Davide Cattano, Dr. Joan Bull, Dr. Marie-Francoise Doursout, Dr. Daniel Freet, Dr. Anil Kulkarni, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. George Williams, Dr. Lanny Ling, Dr. Trevor Cohen, Dr. Amy Franklin, Dr. James Langabeer II, Dr. Dean Sittig, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Kurtis Kasper, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Dr. Martina Gallagher, Dr. Rebecca Helmreich, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Linda Highfield, Dr. Dejian Lai, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Momiao Xiong.

Absent: Dr. George Stancel (Ex Officio), Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Dr. Bindu Akkanti, Dr. Jake Chen, Dr. Jennifer Sanner, Mr. Julio Charles, and Ms. Margaret Wang

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

Guests: Dr. Giuseppe Colasurdo, President, UTHealth; Mr. Scott Forbes, VP for Governmental Relations; Ms. Jennifer Deegan, Associate VP for Governmental Relations; and Dr. Patricia Starck, Senior VP for Inter-Professional Education

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
At the end of the meeting, Dr. Sereno polled the members for any objections or corrections required to the minutes for November 18, 2015. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved, as written, by majority vote with one abstention.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Governmental Relations: Mr. Scott Forbes, VP and Ms. Jennifer Deegan, Associate VP for Governmental Relations

Mr. Scott Forbes and Ms. Jennifer Deegan provided legislative updates as well as informed the IFC attendees regarding concerns about some of the language used in a draft resolution from the IFC related to the Governor’s stance on refugees.

- As a state agency, UTHealth cannot officially lobby elected officials to adopt specific positions or policies. UTHealth’s Government Relations office coordinates communications with elected officials on behalf of the university, and does so in a way to avoid specific opposition to positions or policies of the Governor or legislature that might impact funding for the university.
III. **NEW BUSINESS – Continued**

**ACTION ITEM:**
Dr. Donald Molony offered a suggestion that the IFC offer a Motion to Endorse Dr. Colasurdo’s memo dated December 14, 2015. This information will be passed along to Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Chair, Faculty Status, Rights, and Responsibilities subcommittee.

- NIH budget was increased by $2B to a total of $32B; the vote will be on December 18 and if it passes it will be sent to the President.
- AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) was to be eliminated; however, it only experienced a $30M cut.

**Center for Interprofessional Collaboration (CIPC):**

Dr. Patricia Starck addressed the attendees regarding an overview of the newly formed Center for Interprofessional Collaboration (CIPC). The Mission Statement of this Center is to provide educational opportunities for UTHealth students to develop a team-based approach (education, practice, and research collaboration) to solving the health problems of individuals, families, communities, and societies. The Vision Statement is to be the best-in-class health sciences university. UTHealth’s Strategic Plan now includes interprofessional collaboration. A video is available on their website [https://www.uth.edu/ipc/about/about.htm](https://www.uth.edu/ipc/about/about.htm) and Dr. Starck invited the attendees to visit the site. Dr. Starck outlined the goals of the program and provided items of interest as well as entertained questions and open discussion, summarized as follows:

- Student colloquiums are being held; four sessions have been held with 91 students attending;
- All interprofessional collaborations will be in line with accreditation requirements;
- Guiding principles are to integrate throughout everything we do—not just as an add-on or elective, but rather interweave it in the curriculum;
  - Current process includes educating in “silos” and when they graduate, they are organized into team-based medicine without being taught team competencies that we need to be teaching in our courses;
    - The action plan organizes 7 action teams that operate independently but work on issues that will be part of the team puzzle that includes: Academic, Logistics, Faculty Development, Clinical/Practicum/Lab; Students; Simulation; Evaluation; and CIPC Staff. Each team will be given a budget of $5K for resources, training, etc.
- Didactic content was reviewed across our six schools and common concepts were identified and then divided into what was in our students’ programs at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced stages;
- Next step intent is to, for example, bring all faculty teaching ethics at the schools together and challenge them to figure out how to make what they teach, interprofessional. Some conclusions may be that they each teach their course but all will add an interprofessional case study; or, one course of ethics will be revised and all students will take the same course.
III. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

- A survey was circulated to find out how prevalent are the common concepts; who are the faculty that teach that content, and what methods are now being used to teach.
- Information was provided regarding appointment, promotion, and tenure guidelines at selected universities known for emphasis on interprofessional collaboration.

**ACTION ITEM:**
Request was made that Dr. Starck provide the IFC with (1) a list of current advisory committee faculty members; (2) Funding Opportunities for IPC; and (3) Publication venues.

**President’s 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 wanted to drop by to extend holiday wishes to all.

**UTFAC Meeting Updates**

*Dr. Donald Molony and Dr. David Marshak*

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

- Dr. Molony advised that the UTFAC is still working on intellectual property and will be meeting on Friday, December 18, 2015. Nothing to report until after that meeting.
- The Executive Committee met in Austin on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 and Deputy Chancellor David Daniel and Associate Vice Chancellor Tony Cucolo were in attendance. Associate Vice Chancellor Cucolo is charged with exploring the best practices of faculty governance across all campuses and advised that he will be visiting the campuses to visit with groups such as the IFC as well as some of the senate’s regarding faculty governance.
- Dr. Marshak advised on the collaboration initiative.
  o Chancellor McRaven is seeking to encourage collaboration between the UT campuses, especially in the area of developing multi-disciplinary teams to address initiatives outlined by the Chancellor. At least two UT campuses will work as a team to put together a proposal. The initial focus will be on one of the Chancellor’s initiatives, national security. By collaborating with other campuses we could bring in additional funding.
- Dr. Molony provided information on the other two initiatives as follows:
  o Faculty Governance: One subdomain is evaluation of academic administrators but this is not the main part of this initiative. The principle focus of this initiative is to strengthen faculty governance across the system so that faculty governance can effectively participate in a collaborative fashion to advance the academic missions of the respective institutions. Part of this initiative will be to inventory practices across institutions and to share best practices.
III. NEW BUSINESS – Continued

- Success for Dual Credit Students once students transfer to or enter into the 4 year academic institutions. This initiative mostly impacts the academic campuses but does impact student success in STEM courses that directly impact the quality of the pre-professional education of students transitioning to the Health campuses.

Subcommittee Updates:

Dr. Sereno advised the attendees that the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs (EVPARA) has allocated part-time assistance in support of the subcommittees. Ms. Shefali Kothari is currently working part-time in the EVPARA Office while attending the School of Public Health seeking a Master’s degree. Dr. Sereno will provide Ms. Kothari’s contact information to the subcommittee chairs.

Faculty Status, Rights, and Responsibilities

Dr. Sereno for Dr. Jeffrey Actor, Chair
Dr. Sereno provided information in Dr. Actor’s absence. This subcommittee is charged with looking at diversity across campus and they provided a basic graph outlining endowment holders in the Medical School segregated by endowment type and gender of the holder. More data will be gathered and information will be provided by this subcommittee in future IFC meetings.

Faculty 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. The subcommittee is looking at the evaluation process, evaluation content, and evaluation principles and will be providing more information to the IFC in the next few weeks. Dr. Quock explained the process that the Dental School is using in this regard, and will provide more details to Dr. Williams for the subcommittee to further develop it for recommended use across all schools.

Administrative Affairs

Dr. Ross Shegog, Chair
Dr. Shegog advised that this subcommittee is charged to develop a survey in relation to Intellectual Property (IP). A survey is being created to determine faculty experience in commercialization of their ideas or products and how to make the process more effective at UTHealth. A draft survey was provided to the attendees to review. Dr. Shegog reviewed the flowchart and requested that the attendees provide any feedback as soon as possible as this survey needs to be distributed as soon as possible.

III. OLD BUSINESS

None
IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Eric Solberg, VP for Academic & Research Affairs
for Dr. George Stancel, EVP for Academic & Research Affairs

- **Intellectual Property**: While recent discussions of the IFC and UTFAC have been focused on the rights of faculty with respect to intellectual property, Vice Chancellor Patti Hurn is also very interested in looking at the “recognition” piece of the puzzle – how does IP and commercialization fit into promotion and tenure reviews. Currently, it is not included in our promotion/tenure criteria at any of our six schools nor at the university level. The schools are free to choose their processes; however, Dr. Stancel wants to begin the discussion with the IFC, requesting feedback on how this should be weighed in terms of inclusion in the university’s appointment, promotion and tenure committee; and, how that criteria might be reviewed. Mr. Solberg shared examples of recent publications that discuss the possible inclusion of intellectual property in faculty promotion and tenure review processes, some of which highlight the concept of a “weighted” approach to such review in a way that is similar to the weight placed on different publications: for example, a patent submitted, a patent issued, and a patent licensed would conceivably carry different weights in promotion and tenure reviews. In speaking with a number of colleagues in the state of Texas, including University of Houston, Texas A&M, and UT MD Anderson, these institutions all have explicit language regarding intellectual property as part of the criteria in recognizing these achievements as part of the promotion/tenure process. Dr. Hurn is having all the chief academic officers meet together at the end of January 2016; therefore, Dr. Stancel will put together a committee with faculty representation from all our schools and from the IFC, to have discussions. Dr. Stancel’s primary goal at this point is to get the discussions going in order to solicit feedback and input from faculty that he can bring to the meeting at UT System later next month.

**ACTION ITEM:**
After brief discussion, it was agreed that a few questions will be added in the IFC survey on intellectual property that the Academic Affairs subcommittee is working on that will solicit ideas and feedback from faculty in this regard. Mr. Solberg was tasked with providing drafts of questions for Dr. Shegog to incorporate in the survey.

- **Annual Financial Disclosure**: Early in 2016, the annual notice will be sent out regarding the annual financial disclosure to be completed online which is due in March 2016. This process was developed in the Office of Institutional Compliance; however, Academic and Research Affairs has recently taken more of an active role in some of the processes as it relates to and impacts faculty. Dr. Stancel would like to get feedback on the online system currently used at UTHealth and to compare it to a system that UT System has developed and made available to all campuses. Our system is somewhat cumbersome and not very straightforward, with many pages of instructions that can be confusing. Dr. Stancel would like to pull together a small group of 10-20 faculty members to provide feedback on our system and the one that UT System has developed. Dr. Stancel will revisit this with the IFC in the coming months.
V. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION
None

VI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo on 12/30/2015.
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 01/20/16.