Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2018 – February 21, 2018 – UCT 1726

**Present:** Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Lanny Ling, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Joan Bull, Dr. Marie-Francoise Doursout, Dr. Veronica Gonzalez, Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. Neal Waxham for Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Tiffany Champagne, Dr. Luca Giancarlo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Ashley Clark, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Lisa Thomas for Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Patrick Laird for Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, Ms. Tawaki “Koko” Taylor, and Ms. Brittany Jewell

**Absent:** Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Amy Franklin, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Elda Ramirez, and Dr. Linda Highfield

**Ex-Officio Attendees:** Dr. Kevin Morano

**Administrative Personnel:** Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. **CALL TO ORDER**  
Dr. Ryan Quock, 2017-2018 IFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM.

II. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**  
Dr. Quock polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for January 24, 2018. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Dr. Quock advised the attendees that our planned agenda time with President Colasurdo was canceled due to a special called meeting of the Board of Regents, in Austin, to discuss tuition. He is able to meet with us in July and our meeting date/time is booked on his calendar.

Dr. Quock explained that the IFC Meeting would be a bit different. The first part of the meeting will include the school announcements and Dr. Kevin Morano will attend; then the second part of the meeting will include an executive session time where Dr. Morano in his ex officio capacity, will not attend.

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

**UTFAC Update**  
Drs. Quock and Gurur Biliciler-Denktas

At the UT System level, a faculty representative body exists that is called the UT Faculty Advisory Committee. This committee serves as advisory to the Chancellor regarding any issues that may regard faculty. The committee is composed of representatives from all fourteen UT System schools, which is six-health science centers, and eight academic schools. Each institution is able to send two representatives to meet three times each year. The IFC representatives are the current Chair and the past Chair, and Chair-Elect is the alternate. The latest meeting was held in January 2018.

Meeting highlights were as follows:

- Chancellor McRaven met with the UTFAC to clarify his retirement decision. The feeling was of a bit of sadness as the UTFAC found that Chancellor McRaven was particularly supportive of faculty. He advised that the initiative that he started regarding shared governance would continue.
- Priority issues:
  - Free Speech and Safety on Campus: Balancing bringing in speakers and being mindful of the safety of the attendees;
  - Sexual Misconduct: Attention paid to issues on the faculty side;
  - Physician Burnout Initiative: Will continue;
  - Leadership and Leadership Development: Emphasis will continue;
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- University Enterprise Core Values:

- UTFAC asked the Chancellor if there was a timeline for appointment of a new Chancellor. He advised that he was not part of that process.

- UTFAC asked the Board of Regents if they could have a faculty representative appointed to the search committee. The Chair of the Board of Regents wrote a polite letter declining our offer to appoint someone but did say that the candidates would interact with various faculty leaders during the search process.

- Dr. Raymond Greenberg is the Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. Dr. Greenberg provided some key items on his agenda:
  - Envisions that the six health science centers would be connected and act collaboratively as a true system, especially as it involves the delivery of health care;
  - Working towards the coordination of having a common health information system;
  - Envisions that tele-health will increase in its usage and provided that UTMB is the leader in this venture;
  - Continue to increase opportunities for cancer treatment in some of the other health science centers, especially in Tyler and Northeast. MD Anderson is working with some of the health science centers to make their services available.

- Mr. Barry McBee is the Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations and was able to share a number of things with the UTFAC, including UT System priorities, as far as it concerns legislative activities.
  - What is important to the 14 campuses, is important to the UT System;
  - There is a desire to protect the state funding that we currently receive and to look for pathways to obtain additional funding;
  - There is a desire to protect free speech, on campus;
  - To continue to look for tuition benefits for the “dreamers”;
  - To maintain the Regents’ tuition setting authority; and
  - To revisit campus sexual misconduct legislation.

Mr. McBee left the group with information that will be a challenge for upper level administration and our legislative affairs group. The general concept is on reestablishing the value of higher education, in the public and legislatures views. There has been a decline on how academia is perceived in the public.

Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas is a Co-Chair on the Health Affairs Subcommittee charged with finalizing the Burnout White Paper for the Chancellor. The last edits are done and they created a two-page executive summary. During the Burnout Symposium’s ‘Think Tank,’ four topics of interest were identified, as follows: (1) alignment of financial structures and organizational values; (2) physician leadership, community building, and faculty voice; (3) clinical documentation and efficiency; and (4) medical education and training. Dr. Denktas advised that once everything is approved by UT System, she would share the documents with the IFC membership.

IV. Campus Reports:
Dr. Quock requested that each school’s governance officer provide a school report.

School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI):  
Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer

- SBMI is proud to announce that two of our students recently received Burks Scholarship – Stephen Simington and Muhammad “Tuan” Amith.
Professor James Langabeer, II, PhD, MBA, was recently interviewed for a Slate Magazine article where he commented on the appropriate use of emergency medical transportation.

We are preparing for our Student Career Day to be held in March.

School of Dentistry (SOD):

- The Texas Dental Hygienists’ Association awarded a UTSD hygiene student with Outstanding Student, and two of our faculty members were awarded Procter & Gamble/Crest OralB Teaching Excellence Award and the Future Leader Award.
- Six faculty at UTSD received Leadership Awards from the American Dental Educators Association.
- UTSD will host the Texas Taste Teaser fundraiser for UTSD community outreach missions on Tuesday, April 17 at the Cooley Center from 6:30-9:30. Participating restaurant chefs and celebrity chefs will present small samples; winners will be chosen in categories such as Most Creative, Most Delicious, and Top Executive Chef. The tickets can be purchased for $60 at Go.uth.edu/TexasTasteTeaser.
- Committee work has started for Accreditation.
- Around 300 people attended the annual Nabers’ CE lecture.
- In line with our commitment to research, UTSD welcomes a full-time senior statistician.
- UTSD has hired a new Genetic Counselor/Assistant Professor. Ms. Emily Hansen-Kiss joined our faculty in January, to help with development of a genetics curriculum in the dental school as well as be a resource for genetic diagnosis and counseling of patients seen at the dental school. UTSD is the only school to have a board certified genetic counselor.

School of Public Health (SPH):

- Amber Mitchell, DrPH, MPH, CPH, has been elected chair of the Occupational Health and Safety Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA). Mitchell is an alumna of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health, and began serving as chair-elect in December 2017. The official term begins at the end of the APHA Annual Meeting in November 2018 and lasts for one year.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Section of APHA, established in 1914, is the one of the oldest within the association. The section has more than 700 members and works to advocate for the health, safety, and well-being of workers, families, communities, and the environment.
- Melissa Valerio, Ph.D., M.P.H., regional dean of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) School of Public Health in San Antonio, has been named deputy editor of the journal Health Promotion Practice (HPP). Valerio began serving in this position in January 2018.
- Dianne Stanton Ward, EdD, FACSM, FTOS will deliver the 12th Annual Michael & Susan Dell Lectureship in Child Health, titled "Making Child Care Spaces Healthy Places: What Will It Take?" The lecture, hosted by the Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living at UTHealth School of Public Health in Austin, will take place on April 17. Registration will open March 6 at www.childhealthlectureship.org. Ward is the director of the Intervention and Policy Division and a professor in the Department of Nutrition, at Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC). She is also director of the UNC Children's Healthy Weight Research group (CHWR), a part of the school's Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.
- Five students from UTHealth School of Public Health have received the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship for the Houston-Galveston area. They are Amber Ansari, Jose Dominguez, Joanna Hawkins, Jennifer Holcomb, and Sanjana Puri.
- Kathleen Ochipa, MS, CHES, a student in the Dr.P.H. program in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UTHealth School of Public Health, recently finished her first 100-mile race.
in 29 hours, 29 minutes and 26 seconds, about 30 minutes before cut-off time for the Rocky Racoon 100 mile race in Huntsville.

- Delta Omega Honorary Society summer nominations due Wednesday, February 21.
- The Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services invite nominations of qualified summer graduation candidates for the UTHSC School of Public Health Alpha Iota Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health. Nominations are open to all qualified School of Public Health students who possess exceptional academic merit and have attained meritorious national or international distinction in the field of public health.
- The Center for Infectious Diseases at UTHSC School of Public Health will host a lecture on Feb. 22 at 12 p.m. CST titled “The rotavirus vaccine story: from virus discovery to global control with vaccines,” presented by Roger I. Glass MD, PhD. There will be lunch available to the first 50 attendees in Houston. The lecture will take place in the RAS Building, first floor auditorium in Houston and via ITV. Please contact your ITV administrator for details. Glass is director of Fogarty International Center and associate director for international research at the National Institutes of Health.
- The Student Society for Global Health (SSGH) would like to invite you to the annual multicultural dinner on Tuesday, Feb. 27 from 5-7 p.m. in RAS 102 A&B at the Houston campus. Come out for an evening featuring foods from around the world and an engaging panel discussion about antibiotic resistance following dinner.
- UTHSC School of Public Health Library is transitioning into the UTHSC School of Public Health Learning Commons. Renovation of the space is underway, and includes a central library space/reference room in addition to a student lounge, learning resource center, writing and instruction lab, study rooms, computer carrels, and a conference room. The project is financed by LERR funds (Library, Equipment, Repair & Rehabilitation) - special funding for The University of Texas System for fiscal year 2018.

Cizik School of Nursing (CSON):  
**Dr. Stacy Drake**

- The Dean and SON executive team are in the process of developing a plan to utilize the $25 million gift from the Cizik family. Highlights from these plans include research institute, endowed positions, scholarships, and lecture series.
- Dr. Elda Ramirez was awarded a $1 million grant targeting graduate emergency/trauma NP students.
- Faculty Life Council want to look at campus safety and want to know if we had a bigger approach between all six campuses such as Badge cards, code words, etc. Dr. Morano advised that UTPD is about to embark on a major survey for campus safety.

McGovern Medical School (MMS):  
**Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez**

- Dr. Stoll attended the last faculty senate meeting to present on the Research enterprises of the medical school.
  - The 5-year plan includes growth in Neurosciences, Cardiovascular, Ortho/Trauma, Women and Children, and Infectious Disease/Immunology.
  - Total extramural grant funding >$151M and total NIH $60M, other federal $8.8M.
  - Research expenditures are up 8.6% over FY 16.
- Congratulations and thanks to:
  - James McCarthy, MD, named Memorial Hermann executive vice president, chief physician executive.
  - Jack Byrne, PhD, who is stepping down as Chair of Neurobiology and Anatomy.
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS):

Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez

- **2016-2017 Year in Review**
  
  Over the past year, the Graduate School has gone through many changes, as documented in our latest annual report: the GSBS 2016-2017 Year in Review. From announcing our new school name to leading a program restructuring initiative, to the school receiving an amazing transformative gift of $10.5 million from alumnus John J. Kopchick, Ph.D., and his wife, Charlene, these changes highlight our efforts to ensure that the GSBS continues to be a foundation for new generations of biomedical scientists. The annual report features the stories, photos and videos of one of our most impactful years at the Graduate School, and we hope you enjoy reading about our metamorphosis.

- **Stipend increase**
  
  The GSBS Faculty overwhelmingly voted in favor of increasing the Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) from $29,000 to $32,000 per year, effective Fall 2018, for all PhD students. The last stipend increase took effect in Fall 2012, increased the annual stipend from $26,000 to $29,000. This recent stipend increase is in line with cost of living increases and provides our students a better living wage. This is especially important since the GRA/stipend awarded to PhD students is intended to contribute sufficiently to meeting educational and living costs so that students can devote full time to their studies. PhD students who hold a GRA are prohibited from outside employment of any kind. We also believe this stipend increase, coupled with strong recruitment efforts, will help attract the brightest and best students to the Graduate School.

  Below is an explanation of who will be impacted by this change and when it will take effect:

  **PhD Students**
  
  - The stipend increase will take effect on September 1, 2018 for all current students.
  - All entering PhD students who begin in Fall 2018 will receive a stipend of $32,000/yr. This includes one week of orientation in August prior to the start of the Fall semester.
  - Entering PhD students prior to Fall 2018 (early admits) will receive an initial stipend of $29,000/yr. This amount will increase to $32,000/yr. effective September 1, 2018.

  **MD/PhD Students**
  
  - The stipend increase will take effect on September 1, 2018 for all current students.
  - Entering students who begin at GSBS during the summer semester will receive an initial stipend of $29,000/yr. This amount will increase to $32,000/yr. effective September 1, 2018.

  **MS Students**
  
  - The salary range for Graduate Research Assistantships will change from $15,000 - $29,000 per year to $15,000 - $32,000 per year.
  - Stipend increases are at the discretion of the faculty advisor.

- **Commencement Ceremony 2018**
  
  MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School Commencement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 19, 2018, 10 a.m. at Rice University. Inaugural speaker will be Phillip A. Sharp, PhD, Institute Professor, and Nobel Laureate, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- **D. Dudley and Judy White Oldham Faculty Award**
  
  Nominations are now being accepted for the 2018 D. Dudley and Judy White Oldham Faculty Award. This award recognizes an exceptional faculty member who consistently demonstrates excellence in service and leadership at the Graduate School. The recipient will receive a $4,000 monetary award at our commencement ceremony and give a brief speech to the graduating class. Both students and faculty are invited to submit nominations by Friday, March 9 at 5 pm. You will be asked to describe
how the nominee demonstrates service and leadership at the Graduate School. Contributions may include:

- Educational innovations;
- Leadership of education programs and initiatives;
- Impact on training at the program or school level;
- Guidance of faculty peers on graduate mentoring;
- Enhancements in the training of underrepresented students;
- Career guidance; and
- Publications on graduate education

V.  ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President Announcements  

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

Burnout Report: After the Burnout Survey Report was finalized by the IFC, including the data analysis provided by Drs. Hashmi, Denktas, and Sereno, Dr. Morano prepared an Executive Summary and shared the materials with all deans and associate deans for faculty affairs. They were encouraged to review it and then decide what they would like to do at their own school level, knowing that the IFC is going to continue tackling it in the IFC subcommittee recently formed for the non-physician burnout component. The deans have a monthly meeting and Dr. Morano will be attending one of their meetings to share some of the concerns shared at the IFC meetings.

Post-Doctoral Affairs Office: The Post-Doctoral Affairs Office has been managed at the McGovern Medical School even though post-docs are at four of the schools. Effective February 2018, the Post-Doctoral Affairs Office will transition to reporting directly to Dr. Morano under his UTHealth Faculty Affairs and Development Office. There are some advantages to this move in that more resources are available for post-doc programming as well as it will be viewed as a university-wide office. We will make extra efforts to be more visible at the other schools. Ms. Leslie Beckman will continue as the director of that program and will physically be located in the McGovern Medical School.

Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award: Deadline to turn in the packets for consideration is March 2, 2018. We had a very short timeframe for completing this project by UT System.

SACS Accreditation: All schools are accredited by their own agencies and then the university is accredited by SACSCOC. All schools will be asked to report great volumes of information. It is an immense amount of work. If you are asked to complete information, please make it a priority to respond as fast as possible. Please share with your faculty groups and peers.

Dr. Donald Molony mentioned the UT Shine Academy and solicited participation by all schools at UTHealth.

VI.  EXECUTIVE SESSION

Began at 12:25 PM  
Concluded at 12:58 PM

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP on 04/10/2018.  
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 04/18/2018.