Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2018 – September 20, 2017– UCT-1505C

Present: Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Anne Sereno, Dr. Lanny Ling, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Joan Bull, Dr. Marie-Francoise Doursout, Dr. Veronica Gonzalez, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Jessica Lee, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, Dr. David Volk, Dr. Elmer Bernstam, Dr. Tiffany Champagne, Dr. Trevor Cohen, Dr. Amy Franklin, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Ashley Clark, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Sandy Branson for Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Linda Highfield, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, Ms. KoKo Tawaki Taylor, Ms. Brittany Jewell, and Jacquelyn Sterling-Logan

Absent: Dr. Jake Chen, Dr. James Langabeer, II, Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Myron Arnaud, Dr. Michael Blackburn, and Mr. Eric Solberg

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo and Ms. Yuliana Nunez

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, 2016-2017 IFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:41 AM and introduced herself and then Dr. Anne Sereno as the Past Chair FY 2016. Dr. Denktas passed the gavel to transition the Chair position to Dr. Ryan Quock as the 2017-2018 IFC Chair.

Dr. Ryan Quock

Dr. Quock thanked Dr. Denktas for her leadership as the FY 2017, IFC Chair. Dr. Quock introduced himself and then Dr. Syed Hashmi as the Chair Elect FY 2018 and requested that all attendees stand and provide a brief introduction.

Parliamentary Procedures Overview

Dr. Hashmi provided the attendees an overview of parliamentary procedures.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Ryan Quock

Dr. Quock polled the FY 2017 members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for August 16, 2017. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved, as amended, with one abstention.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Legislative Update

Dr. Kevin Morano for Mr. Scott Forbes, VP Governmental Relations

Dr. Morano provide the IFC members with the Legislative update on behalf of Mr. Scott Forbes, VP Governmental Relations.

- Bottom Line:
  - Legislative Biennial Session was held between January – June 2017 with a special session held in July 2017;
    - UT System was originally underwater by $35m (approximately 10% cut in our operating budget);
    - The Legislature zeroed out the special items in all of the state budgets; we ended up $2.6m over last biennium.
  - Structural and Budget Issues:
    - Special items were cut between 8.8% and 17%.
    - Formula rates did not keep up with growth (I&O Rate cut by -4.1%), and likely will decrease again next year;
    - Children’s Learning Institute’s budget was cut in half;
    - HCPC received Rainy Day Funds of $300m to fund a 304 bed expansion at HCPC Continuum of Care Campus, with possibility of breaking ground as soon as October – December 2019.
• During the Special Session in July 2017, the Texas Medical Board reauthorized.

• Goals for Institution:
  o Protect the special items currently on our list; and
  o Try to recuperate losses incurred from the Harvey storm. UT System is grouping all campuses together to apply all losses toward the deductible.

• Both University of Houston and Sam Houston State University are both trying to open either D.O. or medical schools.
  o All new schools are required have enough space and funding for all the GME slots they are intending to offer.

Joint Letter from IFC/UCSC/SIC

Dr. Quock advised the IFC attendees on the joint letter that was provided to leadership in gratitude thanking them for their humanistic management regarding our return to work. Dr. Quock stated that Ms. Jean Grove and the University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) were instrumental in creating the joint letter. He requested that Ms. KoKo Taylor please pass on regards from the IFC to her and the UCSC. So many positive comments were aired. This was such an opportunity of solidarity and gratitude expressed in the way the events were handled.

Campus Updates- Post Harvey

Dr. Quock requested that each school’s governance officer provide a post-Harvey report on how the faculty and students are doing.

• SBMI: Dr. Amy Franklin reported and advised that through surveys and discussions they know that some faculty, staff, and students had flooding in their homes. Students have been directed to the resources provided by the school and are working with the Office of Management for adjusted schedules and support, if we can provide it. The students have been advised to apprise faculty if there is any accommodation needed to manage their course work.

• SOD: Dr. Ashley Clark reported and advised that they had faculty, staff, and students that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Many of the student groups have been working on some things, for example, American Dental Student Association Chapter created a fundraising effort called Restore Houston and raised about $3,000. The first monies that came in they purchased cleaning supplies and donated them to local shelters. Once they were able to identify students that had been affected they helped by buying new scrubs, a laptop, and they are working to help a student that lost a car. Several of the student groups got together and helped faculty members clean their homes. Both staff and faculty are encouraged to donate to the UT Relief fund. Dr. Clark advised that there is a Recovery Empowerment Symposium on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at UTHealth Cooley Center from 9 AM – 3 PM. The symposium is a united effort to help dentists, physicians, and veterinarians restore and return to practice.

• SPH: Dr. Linda Highfield reported and advised that they had circulated a survey to faculty, staff, and students. Thirty faculty, 44 staff, and 93 students reported having flooded homes. She advised that the Dean’s Office has encouraged donating to the relief efforts. Their student association was out at NRG at the shelter working with the County Health Department providing services.

• SON: Drs. Allison Edwards and Elda Ramirez reported that they had faculty, staff, and students affected by Harvey. Approximately 30% of SON’s students were impacted by the storm, which has caused them to drop classes, which now affects the clinical schedules. Immediately following the storm, they had a supportive Town Hall that was led by Dean Frazier, where faculty, staff, and students attended and shared stories, challenges, struggles, and were offered resources, and
support. In addition, after the storm Drs. Edwards, Ramirez, Drake, and the Dean worked with Red Cross and representatives from FEMA to get UTHealth School of Nursing students out to continue their clinical training.

- **MMS:** Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez reported that faculty, staff, students, and trainees were affected. Over 200 responses to the survey circulated reflected that people were affected with flooding of their homes and car, as well as having trouble financially, with elder care, and childcare. Memorial Hermann Hospitals offered the medical staff displaced by the storm some hotel rooms so they could work.

- **GSBS:** Drs. Lanny Ling and Ines Moreno Gonzalez reported that they did not do a survey but faculty, staff, and students were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Harvey delayed the start of the semester and it has not been decided as to how students will make up the missed time.

Two Motions were made by Dr. Molony as follows:

**MOTION – RESOLUTION 18.1:**
The IFC would like to commend the UTHealth Community for their demonstration of courage, resilience, and ingenuity in moving through this very difficult time during Hurricane Harvey and Post-Harvey.

**MOTION – RESOLUTION 18.2:**
The IFC wishes to recognize the extended “UTHealth Family” affected and suffering as they try to sustain during these national disasters.

Dr. Quock polled the members for any objections to Motions 1 and 2. Upon motions made and seconded, the motions were approved.

Dr. Morano advised that a response team was organized the first week of September. The response team had a phone line, two or three onsite locations, and an email alias set up to help faculty, staff, and students. Through Mr. Scott Forbes, UTHealth was able to schedule 25 FEMA agents onsite at the Cooley Center. Over a two-day period, FEMA served about 700 faculty, staff, and students, from UTHealth and MD Anderson. At the university level, a Harvey Relief fund was developed. This fund has received over 600 applications; however, there is not enough money in the fund to help all the requests. Dr. Morano requested that the attendees advise their schools that if anyone is able to donate, please donate to help fund as many of the requests as possible. The funds are being disbursed in either $250 or $500 debit cards.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
None

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Associate Vice President Announcements**

*Dr. Kevin Morano*

- Dr. Morano advised that his UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development Office is currently in the middle of the conducting the review of over 30 President Scholar Awards nominations. This year, a third category award was added in the area of excellence in clinical service and patient care. These awards carry a $5,000 monetary award. The awards event is scheduled for December 7, 2017.

- Dr. Morano also advised that his office is starting to look at what can be done at the institutional level to address Faculty Wellness and Faculty Burnout. Please be expecting more communication on this topic.
VII. MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

FY 2018 Member Information

- Dr. Quock provide the FY 2018 members with information on Subcommittees and opportunities to participate:

  Subcommittees: FY 2018 IFC members will receive an email requesting all members to sign up for one or more subcommittees. The charges for the subcommittee are as follows:

  - Governance and Academic Affairs: Assess and report on status of honor code policies at each school, including key components of each policy as well as efficacy. Make recommendation regarding possible university-wide honor code policy.
  - Faculty Status, Rights, and Responsibilities: Assess and report on mechanisms in place at each school regarding appointment to new positions (both faculty and administrator) and promotion/tenure, with faculty involvement and input as part of the mechanisms in mind.
  - Administrative Affairs: Assess and report on status/process of annual Faculty Development Plan and Activity Report at each school. Issues, such as relevancy of timing of Faculty Development Plan to faculty member trajectory and purposes that Activity Report evaluation are utilized for, should be explored. Travel guidelines for each school.

- Other opportunities to participate, as follows:

  - The Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit: This is a student scholarship and was created in Dr. Burks’ name as a tribute to his memory and to what he valued in life. The primary goal is to use these available scholarship funds to award a student based on (1) academic achievement, and (2) the ability to demonstrate excellence by support of the mission of education and research within the student’s school and UTHealth. The IFC Scholarship Selection Committee is made up of one IFC faculty from each school and three student representatives from the Student InterCouncil. You will receive an email with the details about this volunteer opportunity.
  - Faculty Tribunal Panel: HOOP 133 – Faculty Termination, requires that a faculty tribunal panel be set up as a standing panel to permit the President to draw from when a situation arises. The IFC is charged with choosing the delegates—which do not have to be members of the IFC. For FY 2018, the IFC is charged with deciding on two new members. Information will be circulated via email regarding this opportunity.

- Dr. Denktas advised the IFC that UT System event is being held at UT MD Anderson on Monday/Tuesday, September 25-26, 2017, concerning faculty workload and burnout. A link will be shared with the IFC membership via email.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2017.

Respectfully submitted by Yuliana Nunez on 10/06/2017
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 10/18/2017