Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2019 – January 16, 2019 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Nathan Carlin, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cui Tao, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, and Jeffrey Ackroyd

Absent: Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Ms. Bridget Smalley, and Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Yuliana Nunez

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair FY 2019

Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair FY 2019, called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Syed Hashmi, Chair, FY 2019

Dr. Hashmi advised that the minutes for November 28, 2018, and January 16, 2019 meetings would be reviewed by the membership at the February 20, 2019 meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing

• Congratulations to Diane Santa Maria, DrPH, MSN, RN, APHN-BC, Associate Professor, John P. McGovern Distinguished Professor, Dorothy T. Nicholson Distinguished Professor, Dean, Ad Interim, for being awarded a R01 grant through the National Institutes of Health titled, “Come As You Are – Assessing the Efficacy of a Nurse Case Management HIV Prevention and Care Intervention among Youth Experiencing Homelessness.” The grant is funded for 5 years for $3,085,854.

• Cizik School of Nursing Associate Dean for Research, Constance M. Johnson, Ph.D., M.S., R.N., FAAN, has been appointed the Maria C. and Christopher J. Pappas Family Distinguished Chair in Nursing. Last year, Maria and Christopher Pappas pledged $1 million, matched by UTHealth’s Game Changers Initiative to create the endowed position.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

• GSBS Faculty Meeting is on Thursday, February 14 at 3 pm in the GSBS Large Classroom.

• Sylvan Rodriguez Foundation Scholarship honoring George M. Stancel, Ph.D.: This award recognizes an outstanding M.S., S.M.S., or pre-candidacy Ph.D. student enrolled at the Graduate School. Applicants should have a record of academic excellence, outstanding communication skills, and the clear potential to make significant contributions to the understanding and treatment of cancer. Award amount is $3,000. Deadline is January 28, at 5 pm.
• The 4th Annual Graduate Student Recruiting Program: The Graduate Student Recruiting Program (GSRP) is a competitive program that provides students the opportunity to explore postdoctoral fellowships at the NCI. Graduate students who apply and are invited to visit the NIH have a distinct advantage in obtaining postdoc positions. Submission deadline is January 31.

• Science Night 2019 is scheduled for Saturday, January 26, 2-5 pm, MD Anderson South Campus Research Building. This free event features fun, interactive science demonstrations, and activities highlighting the scientists at UTHealth and MD Anderson to local elementary school kids and their families.

• 2019 visitation weekends: Visitation events on Feb. 7-9, Feb. 21-23, Feb. 28- March 2, and March 7-9. Students are needed to walk prospective students around campus and attend welcome dinners.

**McGovern Medical School**

Dr. Nathan Carlin

• There was no meeting of the Faculty Senate in December.

• During the November meeting of the Faculty Senate, a conversation was held on faculty concerns with regard to how vacation and holiday schedules are handled.
  - One issue is the disjuncture between UTP and UTHealth holiday schedules. Mr. Casas explained that UTP clinics need to stay open on days such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (which often is a UTHealth holiday for two reasons: (1) the university makes $1 million on these days, and (2) often patients need to come to the clinic on these days because they do not have any other option.
  - Other issues involve inconsistencies between (and perhaps within) departments. For example, in one department, if a faculty member cancels a clinic on a holiday, they are required to take a vacation day. Thus, not only do these faculty members not get the holiday that other faculty members do, but they also are penalized by losing a day of vacation.
  - Senators from each department are collecting information on specific practices with which faculty are unhappy, with regard to vacation and holiday schedule.
  - Moving ahead, the Chair of the Senate will work with the administration to see if solutions can be found at the department level. In other words, we are not seeking a universal, one-size-fits-all solution.

• Debbie Sibley from the TMC Library will be giving an update, specifically with regard to accessing electronic materials (i.e., journal articles) from the library.

• Monday, February 11, 2019, 4-6:30 PM in the Medical School 5th Floor Gallery will be the International Day of Women and Girls in Science Symposium. Dr. Amber Luong provided the background to this new event explaining that the Women Faculty Forum is co-sponsoring with the Dean’s Office and the Faculty Affairs Office, to organize this inaugural celebration. Dr. Joan Bennett has been invited to speak. Drs. Danielle Garsin, Dianna Milewicz, Ruth Heidelberger, and Louise McCullough are four of our own women scientists that will be sharing stories of success and words of encouragement to future generations of women scientists.

• Dr. Kenya Parks is the Chair-Elect of the Medical School Senate for FY 2020.
School of Biomedical Informatics  Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer

- We are pleased to announce that SBMI’s new building space is now open after 14 months of construction. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Dec. 19 to celebrate the occasion.
- Doctoral student Sarah May was recently awarded a National Library of Medicine (NLM) fellowship, focused on fundamentals of data science, analytics, and visualization. This comes with a full stipend for living expenses and tuition.
- Enrollment has finally bounced back from Harvey, and we are near our highest enrollment again. We are relieved to be back on track.
- Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor Susan Fenton, Ph.D. was recently appointed as a member of the CAHIIM Health Information Management Accreditation Council (HIMAC). She will serve a three-year term that begins on January 1, 2019.
- Luca Giancardo, Ph.D., Assistant Professor recently co-authored an article that Nature Journal published in its Scientific Report in late October. The research focuses on the feasibility of technology that can enable a “fast and precise MRI clearance process for busy radiology departments.”

School of Dentistry  Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos

- January 21-26: Diversity and inclusion week sponsored by the office of the Dean and office of professional development and faculty affairs.
  - There is a Proposed Diversity and Inclusion Mission Statement approved by the faculty senate: “UTHealth School of Dentistry at Houston (UTSD) acknowledges and honors the fundamental value, equality, and dignity of all individuals. We pledge ourselves to maintaining and enhancing an inclusive environment that respects the diversity of our students, residents, faculty, staff, and patients as we strive to improve oral health and overall health.”
- August 2020-launch of the UTSD/UT Physicians wellness clinic with goals to serve our patients, to have interprofessional opportunity for our students, and expand our health promotion activities. It will work as a rotation of our students, nurse practitioner, and a medical assistant. Not every day of the week. The pool of this clinic will be from the urgent care clinic, assessment and treatment-planning clinic. Minimum remodeling is required for the clinic to operate. It will be located on the first floor of the UTSD.
- AV upgrades at UTSD: we need to update our electronic equipment in our school (7 yrs. old) (audio, projectors, microphones and tv screens).
- February 21: Spring Faculty Assembly, Climate Survey results discussion (faculty and staff).
- International DDS program to begin in our school maybe in 2020.
- In our Administrative council, Dean Valenza discussed an article from the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) suggesting reduction of number of dental schools in the USA. Texas State Dental Board gives every year license to 300 new graduates from the three dental schools and 600 out of state graduates.
- On January 8, Dr. Wong from the department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery received the president’s Colasurdo scholar award for excellence in clinical service.
School of Public Health:  

Dr. Ross Shegog

- Jennifer Gonzalez, Associate Professor and Assistant Regional Dean for the Dallas campus, was appointed to the National Academies Forum on Global Violence Prevention.
- UTSPH is seeking a regional dean for the San Antonio campus.
- Three-minute thesis pitch competition is happening this Thursday, January 17 at 5 PM with five finalists competing.
- Seven faculty were interviewed by the media and gained national coverage through numerous outlets on topics including: dairy fats on health, effectiveness of the flu vaccine, incarceration and hospitalization of people who have mental illness, the Brighter Bites program in changing children’s eating habits, shortage of the shingles vaccine, the opioid prevention program, robotics to improve worker safety in the cattle industry, the CATCH My Breath tobacco prevention program.
- Three dissertations will be defended over the next week.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development  

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

- We received notification that the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) is again being offered to the six health institutions. Each institution was invited to submit up to four applications for review and advised that up to two awards per institution would be made. This very lucrative award program carries a $25,000 award. The deadline is March 1, 2019, for the schools to send the nominations to the UTHealth Office of Faculty Affairs & Development Office.
- The President’s Award for Leadership process is going on right now. There is a small pool of nominations at this time and Dr. Morano asked that the IFC membership take this information back to their constituents to encourage nominations.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The formal meeting adjourned at 12:49 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 20, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on 02/15/2019.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on 02/26/2019.