Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2019 – April 17, 2019 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Nathan Carlin, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. David Marshak, 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. Amber Lovatos for Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Lee Revere for Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, Jeffrey Ackroyd, and Bridget Smalley

Absent: Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, 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 11:30 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Syed Hashmi, Chair, FY 2019

Dr. Hashmi polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for February 20, 2019 meeting. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Campus Reports: All Schools

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Francine Snow

- Debra L. Fowler, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean, Professional Development and Faculty Affairs, Cizik School of Nursing, received the President’s Award for Leadership –Outstanding Faculty. This award is based on the qualities of leadership through service, compassion, and ethical standards; Debra impeccably displays these qualities, every day. One nominator wrote, “I am retired military and I know what true leadership looks like. When you have a person in charge who genuinely cares about their people and whose door is always open and gives their full support to their people...that is the epitome of true leadership.” Cizik School of Nursing is very proud to see Debra receive this award.

- CSON Dean Search Progress: Faculty will hear presentations by four Dean Candidates in April and early May.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez

- Commencement 2019: The ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 18 10 am, at Rice University, Shepherd School of Music, Alice Pratt Brown Hall. Dr. Peter Pisters, the president of MD Anderson, will be the keynote speaker.

- GSBS Student Research Day is scheduled for June 26-27, 2019, in the Onstead Auditorium and Forum Mitchell BSRB. Preliminary elevator speech competition for 1st-year PhD students MS GSRD Poster Session, and GSRD Oral Presentation Skills Competition.

- The campaign “What makes you unique?” The Graduate School is participating in a McGovern Medical School Office of Diversity and Inclusion campaign asking the question: What makes you unique? All GSBS students, staff, and faculty are encouraged to stop by and write their responses on the designated board by Friday, April 19. Also, feel free to take photos of your contributions and send your images to ms.diversity@uth.tmc.edu to win a prize! #IAmUTHealth
• **2019 GSBS Spring Awards Common Application**: The Graduate School is now accepting applications for the spring cycle of scholarships and fellowships. We expect to award 11 fellowships, each with full stipend support for a graduate research assistant and 10-15 additional scholarships that provide funds directly to students. This totals over $500,000 in support. Deadline is Tuesday, April 30, 5 p.m.

• **NASA Fellowship Activity 2019** is seeking student-authored and independently conceived graduate research proposals responding to a NASA Research Opportunity listed in the solicitation. Proposal deadline is Friday, May 24.

• **Awards:**
  o PhD student April Nguyen received a 2019 Grant for Emerging Researchers/Clinicians Mentorship (GERM) Award from The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation. She is affiliated with the Program in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and her advisor is Cesar Arias, MD.
  o Faculty member Ilya Levental, Ph.D., was named the recipient of the Biochemistry and Cell Biology Program's faculty award. Levental is invited to present the keynote lecture at the 2019 BCB Spring Symposium.
  o The Graduate School would like to congratulate Natasha Kharas for receiving an NIH F31 Fellowship. Kharas is affiliated with the MD/PhD and Neuroscience Programs. Her project is titled *The effects of sleep on neuronal coding in cortical layers and behavioral performance*, and her advisor is Valentin Dragoi, Ph.D.

**McGovern Medical School**

Dr. Nathan Carlin

• The President (Dr. Colasurdo) has been invited to present to our faculty senate. He has been asked to speak to the following: “We would like to hear about your latest hopes and dreams for our school, as an intellectual community. What excites you and gives you joy these days?”

• The Committee on Committees is beginning its work for the year. If other schools do not have such a committee, they may benefit from learning about our procedure. This is a democratic way of filling the few spots available for university service.

• As noted previously, the Faculty Senate of McGovern Medical School has been working on the issue of vacation and holiday scheduling. All departments have reported. Only 6 of the 23 departments have reported issues. What once seemed like an issue affecting the whole school now seems more limited and manageable.

• The Texas Medical Center Police will be presenting this month to our Faculty Senate.

**School of Biomedical Informatics**

Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer

• SBMI Hosted a Career Day on April 5. We invited all SBMI students to attend SBMI’s Career Day on Friday, April 5. The event included sessions focused on helping SBMI students prepare for a job search. SBMI alumni, faculty and staff served as speakers and a professional Career Coach attended to cover networking and interview techniques.

• The Journal of American College Radiology (JACR) released its Recognition of Exceptional Manuscript Review (also called the “Best of 2018”) list in January. Two former SBMI Students (Daniel Murphy MD, MBA and Viralkumar Vaghani, MBBS), Professor Dean Sittig, PhD, and Adjunct Faculty Member Hardeep Singh MD, MPH, co-authored the article JACR named the best Data Science article.

• Professor Lex Frieden, MA, was interviewed on Knowledge@Wharton about Walmart’s decision to stop having greeters and its impact on the retailer’s disabled workers. The interview was also shared on The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania's business analysis journal.

• Our Faculty Governance Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss potential doctoral candidates and switching to a once a year admissions process (currently admit in Fall/Spring).

• SBMI Executive committee will meet next week to review all adjunct faculty positions and re-evaluate their status at SBMI. We found discrepancies between genders (some females at the master’s degree level have “instructor” titles, while males with the same education have “assistant professor”).
- We will have our Poster Symposium on Monday, May 6 – where most students display their research. All on IFC are invited!

**School of Dentistry**  

**Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos**

- Dr. Ryan Quock was elected at the 2019 American Dental Education Association Annual Session and Exhibition in Chicago; he will serve a one-year term as chair-elect, then as chair, and as immediate past chair. He now has the nickname “The Solid Rock” at UTSD.
- We will increase our enrollment in the predoctoral program international program on May 7th
  The word "hackathon" is a portmanteau of the words "hack" and "marathon", where "hack" is used in the sense of exploratory programming and brainstorming. We have two facilitators, Dr. Dragan from Tufts University and Dr. Cole from McGovern Medical School.
    - The Charge: Grow UTSD (DDS) Enrollment
    - The Why: To expand the reach, influence, and reputation of UTSD while enhancing its programs in education, patient care, and research
    - The Question: How will UTSD manage increases in enrollment with regard to (including but not limited to): curriculum, faculty and staff resources, space, patient pool, new or expanded programs, and other variables
    - The Opportunities: Identify how increases in enrollment can also enhance UTSD’s programs and quality of life for faculty, staff, and students
- UTSD Graduation Day at George R. Brown Convention Center is Friday, May 17.
- UTSD Faculty Retreat is scheduled for May 30-31. It is a 2-day event-first joint faculty and staff retreat.
- Facilities update:
  - Cambridge and East intersection, is NOT QUALIFYING FOR LIGHT BUT we have some potential solutions like a 4-way stop, and
  - Police will be more aggressive with the patrols,
  - On Friday, April 5, there was the Endodontic Surgical Suite Ribbon cutting, and
  - LED lights will replace the current bulbs in the parking lot.

**School of Public Health:**  

**Dr. Ross Shegog**

- Faculty council and administration are discussing determinants of faculty workload discussions.
- Faculty council is reviewing and collating a list of workload items drawn from the faculty that might be considered in Annual Activities Review.
- A CEPH accreditation self-Assessment of 5-Year Diversity & Inclusion Goals is being conducted. In conjunction with this is an information session on diversity initiatives hosted by the School of Public Health Diversity Committee on April 18.
- An amalgamated UTHealth SPH / MD Anderson Cancer Center Population Health is in discussion.
- UTSPH campuses across Texas celebrated National Public Health Week in honor of National Public Health Week April 1-7. Each of our six campuses hosted or participated in events that celebrated public health work and service.
- UTSPH will celebrate Wellness Week April 22-25. FREE Wellness Week activities include:
  - Monday, April 22; 9:30 am - 11 am: Kindness Board (created by the HPBS department) in the RAS Lobby (Bananas, Granola Bars, and Coffee provided by SPHSA)
  - Tuesday, April 23; 1 - 1:30 p.m. Salsa Dancing with Ginny Zhu at the RAS Deck. Free lesson and no experience necessary.
  - Wednesday, April 24; 10 am - 3 pm: Free 15 Minute Chair Massages in the 2nd Floor RAS Lobby (Sign Up Here: [https://tinyurl.com/FreeMassageRSVP](https://tinyurl.com/FreeMassageRSVP))
  - Thursday, April 25; Noon - 1 pm: Meditation with Paula at the RAS Deck (Tea and Tea Sandwiches provided by SPHSA)
Faculty, staff, and students of the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health (SWCOEH) of UTHealth School of Public Health teamed up to monitor air quality changes caused by the Intercontinental Terminals Company Deer Park terminal fire.

Some accolades in the past 2 weeks:

- UTHealth students take top honors in the eighth annual Fleming Center for Healthcare Management Case Competition.
- Epidemiology student Tanaya Sainath Deshpande, BDS, placed second for her poster presented at the Houston Global Health Collaborative UNLIMITED conference 2019 at Houston Methodist Hospital. The topic for her poster was "What is the impact on taste function in oropharyngeal cancer patients during and after proton therapy?"
- Elizabeth Onyenefu Obekpa, a doctoral student in the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences, was awarded funding from the Margaret McNamara Education Grants. This grant helps support the education of women from developing countries who have demonstrated a commitment to empowering women and children.
- Dissertation and thesis defenses in the last four weeks totaled around 90 in preparation for the upcoming commencement.

**UTFAC Meeting Update:**

Dr. Ryan Quock shared the following information from his attendance at the last UT FAC Meeting:

- UT Physician Burnout initiative still active, currently via various grant applications to promote programs across System;
- The UTFAC continues to work with Chancellor to arrive at a publishable perspective on free speech; and
- Policy on the appropriate use of faculty endowments was revisited.

**University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) Update:**

Ms. Bridget Smalley

- The UCSC is hosting a brown bag session on diversity and inclusion in the workplace at MMS during lunchtime on May 7;
- Contributions to the March of Dimes is a focus at this time;
- Issues being undertaken at this point in the academic year are:
  - Tuition Reimbursement: This is not offered across campus to every employee yet it is a UTHealth benefit. The UCSC is hoping to see it standardized.
  - Essential vs Non-Essential Staff: Seeking clarification of which positions are considered essential and which are non-essential as we are approaching hurricane season.
  - Professional Development for Staff: The UCSC is hoping to obtain budgets for professional development.
  - 360 Evaluations for Managers: Currently, evaluations are top down and there is no opportunity for employees to rate their managers.
  - The UCSC is instituting naming an educational award in honor of Ms. Debbie Norris, who retired from employee relations after many years and provided support to the UCSC.

**Student Interfaculty Council (SIC) Update:**

Jeffrey Ackroyd

- The SIC is finishing its year with one event left to take place. The Deans Dinner will be taking place next week. We will be presenting what we have done this year and the intended goals for next year.
- We successfully hosted the Sports Day and Crawfish Boil events this semester.
- We have awarded four academic merit scholarships:
  - The awardee for the SIC Academic Scholarship Award is Carolina Garcia-Garcia from GSBS;
  - The awardees for the Toshi Nikaidoh Service Award are Francis Nguyen from SPH and Priya Matthew from UTHealth Dallas; and
  - The awardee for the Shohrae Hajibashi Memorial Leadership Award is Alexander Wetzig from MMS.
The SIC amended their bylaws to include a diversity committee. We are changing our members noted as underrepresented representatives to at-large members.

**Chair-Elect Process**: Dr. Hashmi announced that it was time for the IFC chair-elect call for nominations for 2019-2020 IFC Chair-Elect position. Please send your nominations to Terrie and me. We will confirm with the nominees their acceptance of being placed on the voting ballot. Per the IFC Bylaws, “each nominee will provide a short description of his/her proposed role and future plans for the IFC” prior to a formal vote. We will request the bios in time to be able to provide them for review before the June 19, 2019 meeting. The candidates will be able to introduce themselves and speak to their candidacy at the June meeting, and we will vote via a confidential voting poll after the June meeting.

**Small Animal Use Research**: Dr. Hashmi requested that if anyone is using small animals in their research, to send him an email advising that they do have faculty doing this at their school—as well as to possibly provide a couple of names.

### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Announcements to the Faculty Population**: Dr. Hashmi revisited the proposed creation of a mechanism of announcing the accolades that occur at each school. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded, that the IFC Chair should proceed with this idea promoting each independent school, collectively, on the UTHealth website.

### V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development**

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

- **Endowments**: Dr. Morano confirmed that UTHealth does not use the endowments for base salary support. If it is used, it is as an add-on.
- **CSON Dean Search**: As mentioned earlier, everything is going very well.
- **Emerging Leaders Institute**: Dr. Morano attended the graduation ceremony for this group that had 58 participants, 40% of the participants were faculty, and 40 out of the 58 participants were women.
- **Faculty Wellness Programs**: Dr. Morano, in his Associate VP role is working with the UTHealth Faculty Assistance Office on rolling out wellness type programs. The UTHealth Faculty Assistance Office has secured funding from UT System to help provide these opportunities to our faculty. Dr. Morano asked for suggestions of things that the faculty would find useful that we could build on, not just a one-off offering.
- **Regents’ Rule Change**: There is now a new non-tenure title of Assistant-Associate-Professor of Instruction found in HOOP 192. Dr. Morano met with the faculty affairs representatives at each school to get their input on what that job description would look like and then distributed it to the schools.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 15, 2019.
