Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes  
FY 2019 – November 28, 2018 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. David Loose for Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Nikoaloas Soldatos, Dr. Stacy Drake, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Michael Swartz, Ms. Bridget Smalley, and Jeffrey Ackroyd

Absent: Dr. Nathan Carlin, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, Dr. Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, Dr. Cui Tao, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Ross Shegog, and Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas

Guests: Mr. Michael Tramonte and Ms. Karla Crabtree

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano, Dr. Ryan Quock

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP

I. CALL TO ORDER  
Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair FY 2019

Dr. Syed Hashmi, IFC Chair FY 2019, called the meeting to order at 11:35 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 October 17, 2018. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

HOOP 85: Controlled Access Status for Emergency, Mr. Michael Tramonte, Sr. VP & CFO; and Disaster or Severe Weather Ms. Karla Crabtree, Director, Employee Relations

Dr. Hashmi introduced Mr. Michael Tramonte and Ms. Karla Crabtree to the membership and advised that HOOP 85 was vetted through all the review channels and approved by the University Executive Council and this is a courtesy visit to allow the IFC membership an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Crabtree advised that the changes were made to clarify the procedures for emergency, disaster, or severe weather in light of the university’s experience with Hurricane Harvey and to comply with the Clery Act. Further, additional provisions have also been added regarding pay for essential personnel during periods of controlled access. There were many inconsistencies in how working time was being recorded during these periods; therefore, our changes now reflect what UT MD Anderson is doing. There is not a “code” within the time reporting program for recording this type of compensatory time because the departments will submit a spreadsheet recording the controlled access status. The IFC membership advised they understood and supported the changes and thanked Mr. Tramonte and Ms. Crabtree for addressing the IFC.

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing Dr. Stacy Drake

- Nurse Practitioner Week was recognized in November celebrating the 21K Nurse Practitioners in Texas.
- An informative CE presentation was delivered by our new Veterans BSN (VBSN) program Case Manager Rex Marsau, MS, MFT on Military Culture 101 to help us as faculty better appreciate the challenges faced by our US veterans as they reintegrate into civilian life and higher education.
- Dr. Brian Galle has been elected to serve on the Texas Association of Nurse Anesthetists Board of Directors for 2018-2010.
Dr. Susan Ruppert has been appointed to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) Essentials Task Force. She will be working on the DNP Essentials Workgroup.

Dr. Constance Johnson is leading an initiative to convert our Sleep Room on the fifth floor into an innovative “Smart Room” to enable future learning and has partnered with Engineers from Rice University on the design phase.

**Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

- GSBS Spring course registration: Graduate students can now register for the 2019 spring semester. Registration ends on December 31.
- GSBS nominations for F99/K00: GSBS has an internal competition to nominate two graduate students for the NCI predoctoral to postdoctoral fellow transition award (F99/K00), which supports two years of PhD training and 3-4 years of postdoctoral training. This is limited to students focusing on cancer research. An NIH Biosketch for student and mentor along with a one-page specific aims page is due by this Friday.
- Kopchick Research Award: The First John J. Kopchick research award was presented to graduate student Pranavi Koppula and her advisor Dr. Boyi Gan in the Genetics and Epigenetic program. Boyi Gan is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Radiology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. The award provides $50,000 in pilot funding for innovative projects in Biomedical Sciences. These researchers are testing drugs that block glucose metabolism as treatments for lung cancer using a murine model.
- Jess Hay Chancellor's Graduate Student Fellowship: Graduate student Casey Agar received the 2018 Jess Hay Chancellor's Graduate Student Research Fellowship for research excellence for biomedical science that has the potential to benefit Texas and the nation. Only two students in the entire UT system receive this award each year. Casey Agar is a graduate student in the laboratory of Dr. Michael Curran in the Department of Immunology at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**McGovern Medical School**

Dr. Nathan Carlin

- The Student Learning Environment Taskforce will be renewed this year. It is being co-chaired by Dr. Allison Ownby (Office of Educational Programs) and Dr. Renee Flores (Faculty Senate). It will begin meeting after Thanksgiving. It will include three medical students, in addition to senators and other invited persons from relevant administrative offices. Membership will be finalized by early December, though membership is subject to change as needed.
- A major item for discussion was the vacation and holiday schedules for UTP and UTHealth; some departments are happy with these processes, others are not. Mr. Casas was present to answer some questions. Moving forward, Dr. Carlin will work with Dr. McNiel to collect more information from clinical departments. Dr. Carlin would like this issue to be resolved before the end of his term as Chair.

**Special guests this month at the Faculty Senate included:**
- Dr. Amy Hazen, Associate Director, Shared Research Resources, to talk about collaboration possibilities; and
- Salman Khan, Manager, IT Security, to talk about VPN access

**Announcements:**
- Dr. Rita Charon (Columbia University) will be giving the commencement address this year. She is associated with the founding of narrative medicine. Dr. Charon providing the commencement address sends a powerful message about our school’s commitment to caring for patients as whole persons.

**School of Biomedical Informatics**

Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer

- Professor Cui Tao, PhD was elected to be a Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics (ACMI).
In an effort to enhance SBMI’s computing resources for big data and artificial intelligence (AI) research, the school recently acquired new hardware equipment to boost the data science oriented computing infrastructure.

Two SBMI faculty members, Xiaoqian Jiang, PhD & W. Jim Zheng, PhD, collaborated with the IT team at SBMI and UTHealth to design, configure, and procure the equipment. Jiang earmarked $1 million from his Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) Rising Star grant and UT System STARs award while Zheng contributed $1 million from his CPRIT grant supporting the Data Science and Informatics Core for Cancer Research. It is the largest GPU server in the world designed by NVidia for AI research, especially for deep learning models.

The CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education) accreditation site visit for the applied master’s program in Health Informatics concluded 11/27. Final results are pending, but the exit review was very positive.

Faculty evaluations and PhD student reviews are ongoing. Letters and reminders will be sent to students at each stage of the process: qualifying exams, proposal, and dissertation stage.

The ribbon cutting for the NEW building will be December 19, 2018. We are very excited!

School of Dentistry

Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos

Motion: To invite Dean Valenza to hold a town hall meeting to explain the changes in the breakdown of salary (core salary + discipline specific). It is scheduled for 26 of November 12-1, discussion with Mr. Joe Morrow and Dr. Kevin Morano as well. Several faculties were concerned about how this breakdown of salary will played against them.

- Justification: Faculty were not previously informed about the changes to the separation of their salary breakdown and would like their questions addressed. Questions about pension, merit, etc.
- Scoring system from faculty evaluations are linked to the merit.

Auto cyclist incident, a student was hit by a car at the intersection of Cambridge and East road. Dean Valenza contacted the City of Houston to have a light or a stop sign on that intersection. Their research did not meet the criteria for a light or a stop sign. This brought back memories from Sunset and Main (Rice University) where three people were killed within the last few years. There are discussions that we need to have a UT police officer in the intersection. Cyclists are riding over the crosswalk.

- Regarding that incident, we contacted the UTPD department - Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety course was invited to the Spring Faculty Assembly at 1pm for 30 minutes Still waiting for the students’ schedule to plan their lecture.

The school will have audio visual upgrades, classrooms and Cooley center: we will have jumbo screens and new projectors ($35,000 from the dental school and $35,000 the Cooley center).


- School Center not a University center
- Only medical school to have such a center.

The purpose of the Center for Oral Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety at UTHealth School of Dentistry is to improve oral health by developing a dental learning health system and informatics infrastructure capable of continuous self-study and improvement. The following vision and mission of the center have been strategically developed to align with both UTHealth and the School of Dentistry:

- Vision: Improve the oral and overall health of individuals and populations
- Mission: To improve health by implementing a person-centered learning health system to ensure everyone receives safe, effective, and appropriate oral healthcare. We will conduct research, develop informatics tools, and implement the findings at the clinical facilities at UTHealth School of Dentistry and at other collaborating institutions across the USA.
• Philanthropy has intersected into recruitment of students or residents. Dean’s position is to discuss the “gift” to the school after the end of the admissions process.
• Rankings of Dental Schools from National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research; as far as federal dollars for research: 2008 we were the 46th best school and in 2017, we are the 15th best school with $2,997,544. In addition, we are higher than the other dental schools of Texas. Our goal is to be at top 10 list.

School of Public Health: Dr. Craig Hanis
• Faculty council has been revising the Faculty compensation plan through an iterative process including faculty meetings. The aim is to have this passed by full faculty vote in December 2018.
• Over the next three years, we are redoing all of the interactive TVs in the building and at the regional campuses. It is a marked improvement.
• UTHealth School of Public Health now has a yearlong American Public Health Association (APHA) agency membership. This full membership provides online-only access to APHA publications and provides the opportunity to participate in two of the APHA sections/SPIGs and as presenters at the APHA Annual Meeting and Expo.
• This edition of Pioneers - the annual magazine of UTHealth School of Public Health - highlights sleeves-rolled-up practice, research that uncovers a deeper understanding of population needs, and education that inspires students to leap into public health. Topics in this issue include research helping to improve dairy safety; the new MPH/DDS program; care for cancer survivors; a community-based health and wellness initiative; the burden of liver cancer; looking back at Hurricane Harvey, and more.
• The Next Holistic Garden Workshop for employees is on November 28, 2018. Through the end of December, UTHealth employees are invited to attend monthly garden workshops taught by Joe Novak, PhD. Each class takes place from 4:30-6 p.m. CDT and is free as this program is grant funded. You may be asked to fill out a survey for program evaluation purposes. To sign up, please email John.Wesley.McWhorter@uth.tmc.edu. Space is limited to the first 20 people who register.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Faculty Tribunal Dr. Hashmi
Dr. Hashmi explained that the first poll that was distributed had a candidate omission. Therefore, everyone should have just received the notice to respond to the new confidential poll with three candidates for consideration. Please respond to this confidential poll to select a nominee to fill the one open panel position. The results will be submitted provided to the IFC membership, electronically, and then Dr. Kevin Morano will provide the full panel listing to President Colasurdo.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development Dr. Kevin A. Morano
• QEP (Quality Enhancement Plan) is mandated by the SACSCOC and is a required program for reaccreditation. Dr. Morano advised that a copy of the information that was circulated on October 16, 2018 was included in the meeting material packet. He requested that everyone review and consider as the deadline for submitting potential projects is December 15, 2018.
• Dr. Morano provided a brief summary of the discussion he conducted in a Town Hall with the School of Dentistry regarding Memorandum of Appointment (MOA) change. Beyond the improvement of the core salary changes made earlier in the year, the breakdown on the MOAs would reflect: core salary, then discipline specific amount, augmentation amount (productivity metric, etc.), and supplement amount. This is now being reflected across campus at all schools as well as in the offer letters.
• The UT System Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ray Greenberg has submitted his resignation for the spring of 2019.
• The UT System Board of Regents’ is considering downsizing the UT System “core” in Austin.
• We just received confirmation that the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award Program will occur in FY 2019. The call for nominations will be circulated in January 2019, and our nominees will be provided to Dr. Greenberg’s office on or before March 24, 2019. As always, a quick turnaround is required, so be on the lookout for the call announcement and instructions.
• President Colasurdo just received confirmation that we have four (4) new inductees to the University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, MD, Academy of Health Science Education (Shine Academy). Each year the Shine Academy sends a call out to the eight UT System health science institutions advising that they are accepting up to four nominees from each institution for consideration. It has been at least 6 years since UTHealth has had all four of the nominees selected for induction, which is a compliment to the caliber of the candidates that were nominated. The newest Shine Academy members are Emma Omoruyi, MD, MPH from McGovern Medical School at UTHealth; Belinda Reininger, DrPH, from the UTHealth School of Public Health; Susan Ruppert, PhD, RN, from Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth; and Donna Warren-Morris, RDH, MEd, UTHealth School of Dentistry. Dr. Morano’s UTHealth Office of Faculty Affairs & Development notified the Deans and nominators so that they could congratulate the nominees. Please wait until the individuals approach you to share the news —for at least a week to allow the proper channels to provide the notice as well as time to receive their formal congratulations notification letters.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
• IFC Subcommittees Breakout Session began at 12:20 PM.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM and the IFC Subcommittees met until 1 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on 02/20/2019.