

**Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes**  
**FY 2020 – September 18, 2019 – UCT 6th Floor, SBMI Rio Grande Conference Room,**

**Present:** Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Ryan Quock, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Nicholas De Lay, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Heidi Kaplan, Dr. Donald Molony, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cui Tao, Dr. Lukas Simon for Luca Giancardo, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Walid Fakhouri for Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Nikolaos Soldatos, Dr. Allison Edwards, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Michael Swartz, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Elaheh Ashtari, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Iram Kazimi, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Debora Simmons via WebEx, Ms. Amber Lovatos, Dr. Patrick Laird, Dr. Mariya Tankimovich, Jeffrey Ackroyd, and Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey

**Absent:** Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş, Dr. Nate Carlin, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Amber Luong, Dr. David Marshak, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Catherine Ambrose, and Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee

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

**Guests:** Mr. Scott Forbes, Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Ms. Kara Crawford via WebEx, and Mr. Scott Barnett

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

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

Dr. Syed Hashmi, 2018-2019 IFC Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

Dr. Hashmi recognized Dr. Ryan Quock for his leadership and service as Chair-Elect, Chair, and Past Chair during FY 2017-2019 and presented him with an Appreciation Certificate and gift.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** **Dr. Hashmi**

Dr. Hashmi polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for August 21, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were approved with one abstention.

Dr. Hashmi passed the gavel to transition the Chair position to Dr. Elda Ramirez as the 2020 IFC Chair. Dr. Ramirez introduced herself as IFC Chair for FY 2020 and asked the attendees to introduce themselves and provide something personal about themselves that people probably do not know.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**IFC Meeting Dates** **Dr. Elda Ramirez, IFC Chair, FY 2020**

The membership will receive Outlook meeting requests to book all meetings on their calendars with the exception of the July/August booking. Dr. Ramirez requested to have a Poll circulated for the membership to choose whether July or August 2020 would be the final meeting date for FY 2020. Once the poll is completed, a meeting request will be sent.

**IFC Bylaws** **Dr. Ramirez**

The membership was provided a copy of the IFC Bylaws as revised and approved on 06/20/2018. She requested that if anyone had questions to let her know.

**IFC Subcommittees** **Dr. Ramirez**

Dr. Ramirez is developing the subcommittee charges that will be discussed at the October 16, 2019, IFC Meeting. PDF copies of the subcommittee final reports for FY 2018 and FY 2019 will be provided to the membership at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit** **Dr. Ramirez**

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer (EVP/CAO) manages university scholarship endowments; the TF Burks Scholarship endowment is one of these endowments. The EVP/CAO's office provides the notice, including guidelines and process information, to the schools. Each school is able

to submit up to two (2) applications by December 1. The IFC/SIC Selection Committee reviews up to 12 (twelve) applications for the award and selects the awardee(s). The process involves forming a subcommittee of IFC members, one member from each school and includes three students from the Student InterCouncil (SIC). This year, we have four openings on the selection committee. The committee's time commitment is from November and December through an all-electronic meeting process. The attendees were requested to send an email to Terrie Schade-Lugo if they were interested in participating in the TF Burks Award Selection Committee.

#### **Faculty Tribunal Panel**

***Dr. Ramirez***

Dr. Ramirez explained that HOOP 133 – Faculty Termination, outlines the process to be used and the procedures that the university will follow, in cases of termination of employment or termination before the expiration of the stated period of appointment at UTHealth, who has been granted tenure. During the process, there may be a need for a hearing. If there is cause for a hearing, the President will appoint a tribunal of at least three (3) faculty members to hear the accusation. Per policy, the Tribunal Panel consists of nine (9) tenured faculty members. The IFC nominates six panel members and the President selects three members. Currently, the panel has two (2) vacancies, and the IFC is to nominate two (2) new panel members. The attendees were requested to send their nominations to Dr. Ramirez and Terrie Schade-Lugo. Once nominations have been received, a confidential electronic poll will be circulated for the IFC members to select nominees to fill the two open panel positions. The results will be submitted to Dr. Kevin Morano to provide to President Colasurdo.

#### **Governmental Relations**

***Mr. Scott Forbes, Vice President,  
Ms. Kara Crawford, Associate Vice President,  
Ms. Pamela Kennedy, Executive Services Administrator; and  
Mr. Scott Barnett, UTHealth Director of Accounting and Budget***

Mr. Scott Forbes and Ms. Kara Crawford provided a Legislative Update to the attendees. The discussion center around the handout provided entitled "86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Summary: Appropriations - HB 1 Conference Committee Report Results." A handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Campus Updates**

***Dr. Ramirez***

Dr. Ramirez advised the membership that each month she would call on the faculty governance representatives of the schools to provide a school report. As the IFC Agenda is very busy, she requested the faculty governance representatives to send their reports in to Terrie Schade-Lugo for inclusion in the September 18, 2019, IFC Minutes.

#### **Cizik School of Nursing**

***Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki***

- Dr. Vaunette Fay who is being recognized as a National Hartford Center of Gerontological Nursing Excellence (NHCGNE) Distinguished Educator in Gerontological Nursing
- Dr. Patrick Laird was elected to the Texas Nurses Association's Leadership Succession Committee for a two-year term (2019-21).
- The National Black Nurses Association honored Dr. Mary E. Ross as its 2019 Nurse Educator of the Year during an awards ceremony on July 27 in New Orleans.
- Congratulations to Dr. Stacey Crane, Assistant Professor, Department of Research, for being awarded a \$100,000 grant from PARTNER'S titled "Facilitating Comprehensive Self and Proxy Symptom Assessments for Children with Cancer."
- Dr. Brian Ahn's research on pain in older adults with knee osteoarthritis is funded for three years by a new R15 NIH grant for \$463,737. He and his team will conduct a Phase II randomized sham-controlled trial of self-administered transcranial direct current stimulation.

## **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

***Dr. Nicholas De Lay***

### **New GSBS Faculty President and Vice President**

- Dr. Mike Lorenz (Dept. of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, McGovern Medical School) passed the gavel of Faculty President to Dr. Joya Chandra (Dept. of Pediatrics, MD Anderson Cancer Center).
- Dr. Jeffrey Frost (Dept. of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology, McGovern Medical School) was elected Vice President/President Elect of the Graduate Faculty.

### **GSBS Admissions summary**

- 1098 Applicants for Graduate School (PhD, 721; MS, 138, SBMI MS 239)
- The total number of applicants increased by 27%.
- More competitive admission rate (16% this year versus 23% last year)
- Applicants acceptance rate (57% this year versus 52% last year)

### **Dr. John J. Kopchick Symposium**

- Monday, Nov 4th in Onstead Auditorium BSRB S3.8012, 6767 Bertner Ave.
- The theme is "Navigating Your Early Career"
- Will feature many exciting talks from young, successful scientists centered around their career paths and how they ended up in their current positions.
- There will be a round-table lunch for attendees to meet with speakers.
- There will also be a networking reception at the end of the day.
- More information at:  
<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qvtn4kkab&oeidk=a07eglc4qip25bc2339>

### **CCTS TL1 Predoctoral Fellowship Call for Applications**

- Deans Barton and Blackburn invite students to apply for the Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences TL1 Training Program. This year there are 11 predoctoral and 4 postdoctoral training positions with appointments beginning Jan 1, 2020.
- To be eligible, an applicant must be conducting clinical or translational research (as defined [here](#)). The TL1 program is open to early-stage PhD students (2nd or 3rd year), MD/PhD students (1st or 2nd PhD year) or postdoctoral scholars (PhD, 0-1 years of postdoctoral training), at any UTHealth school or MD Anderson.
- Applications are due Monday, September 23 by 5 p.m. Complete eligibility and application information can be found [here](#) or contact [Kelly Moore, PhD](#), with any questions.

## **McGovern Medical School**

***Dr. Kenya Parks***

### **Outgoing Faculty Senate Chair "Year-End" Report**

- 14 presentations were given to the Faculty Senate
- Vacation and holiday assessment due to variation in policies. Of the 23 departments of MMS, only six reported issues with vacation and holiday scheduling. Dr. McNiel clarified that the practice of requiring faculty to use a vacation day if they cancel their clinic on a skeleton day is not consistent with the HOOP policy.

### **Learning Environment and Professionalism Taskforce Report (LEPT)**

- Senate officially motioned to form the Learning Environment and Professionalism Taskforce
- A faculty-student compact and early concern note are being drafted. LE workshops are being offered to faculty, residents, and students. SCoPE is leading a professionalism project to define professionalism. An anonymous mistreatment-reporting website is available. Directors of the Learning Environment were appointed: Dr. Vineeth John at MHH and Dr. John Riggs at LBJ. It was recommended that LEPT be continued into the next academic year.

Continuing Medical Education Committee Report

- Dr. Zi Yang Jiang reported that the CME committee sent a survey this morning soliciting feedback about the CME program at MMS. Most attendees at our major conferences were mid-level, allied health, and other professionals/individuals, which indicates we are attracting non-physician providers. Most are satisfied with the BCM certification process.

School of Biomedical Informatics

*Dr. Kirk Roberts*

- Associate Professor Xiaoqian Jiang, PhD was a co-author a recently published *JAMA* article entitled, “Patient Perspectives About Decisions to Share Medical Data and Biospecimens for Research” where they found patients were more willing to share biodata (such as DNA sequencing) with non-profit institutions (such as academic medical centers) than with for profit hospitals.
- Assistant Professor Deevakar Rogith, PhD, MBBS presented during a Grand Rounds seminar on Tuesday (8/27) at the McGovern Medical School Building: "Data to Decisions: Antimicrobial prescription patterns and Clinical decision support applications."
- SBMI hosted a 24-hour Machine Learning Hackathon between Sep. 14-15, 2019. The hackathon objective was to detect the onset of slow activity after seizures with time series EEG input data (measured from 13 electrodes). This was a fun challenge for our students, followed by an awards ceremony with demonstrations.
- Dean Sittig, PhD, SBMI professor, was interviewed by *For the Record* magazine about his article in Health Affairs about how electronic health records have impacted patient safety.
- The first class of DHI students started – first program in the world! We have 11 students pursuing their Doctorate in Health Informatics from all over the country.

School of Dentistry

*Dr. Hugh Pierpont*

- September 23: Dean John Valenza, UTSD '81, was named “Texas Dentist of the Year by the Texas Academy of General Dentistry.
- September 24-26: American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation Site visit. This occurs on a seven-year reaffirmation cycle.
- September 27: A UT Physicians Clinic was opened at the SOD to manage medical consults for patients being seen within the clinics.

School of Public Health

*Dr. Ross Shegog*

- Faculty Council is reviewing the following agenda items:
  - Guiding statements and mission of the UTSPH.
  - Promotion Guidelines for New Non-Tenure Track Educational Titles for associate professor of instruction and full professor of instruction
  - List of Workload Items that define categories by which faculty could be assessed.
  - Updated Tenure and Promotion Guidelines for SPH Faculty
  - Faculty Mentoring Programs with a subcommittee formed to address this.
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Awards were announced in the newsletter. They are intended to provide students with funding for research-related expenditures that are essential to the conduct and successful completion of their doctoral dissertations and that fall outside of the scope of typical graduate school expenses. Applications are solicited in the Fall and Spring semesters. Up to two awards are made annually.
- The Annual Activity Report (AAR) system for faculty reporting on the 2019 academic year (September 1, 2018—August 31, 2019) will commence on September 18, 2019.
- Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation. The UTHealth School of Public Health is currently accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Accreditation review is scheduled for October 16-18, 2019. As part of the accreditation process, the School’s stakeholders (including students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community partners) have the opportunity to submit feedback on the School’s practices, procedures, and policies. CEPH accepted written comments up to September 16, 2019.

- Dissertation & thesis defenses: Four dissertation proposal defenses and dissertation defenses are scheduled over the next few weeks.
- Recent media coverage:
  - Shreela Sharma, PhD, RD, was interviewed by [U.S. News & World Report](#) writer Ruben Castaneda for a story on whether it is possible to combine low-fat and low-carb diets.
  - Marcia de Oliveira Otto, PhD, was included in an article by [Morning Ag Clips](#) about the importance dairy products play in a child's diet in light of a recent study that shows 86% of adults in the U.S. prefer dairy milk.

#### **Student InterCouncil**

***Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd***

- Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd reminded the IFC attendees that the Annual Salutation Program is taking place on October 2, 2019 at 5:30 PM at the Cooley Center. He requested everyone share the information at all schools.

### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

***Dr. Kevin A. Morano***

- Dr. Morano introduced himself and advised the new members to the IFC that his role with the IFC is to be a liaison between executive leadership and the faculty through this Council.
- The Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) has been renewed for FY 2020. UTHealth may submit four nomination packets and we may receive up to two awards. This prestigious award carries a \$25,000 monetary award. The call for nominations will be circulated in the near future.
- As a reminder, the UTHealth Ombuds Office was officially launched on September 2, 2019. The office is located in the UCT building on the first floor directly across from the guard's desk. The handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- A few years ago, we negotiated university-wide access to The Chronicle of Higher Education. A handout was provided in the meeting materials packet explaining how to gain access on campus as well as on your mobile phone. The handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- Uthealth.care.com. A few years ago this program was started to assist with emergency child and elder care. This is a benefit but not facilitated through the UTHealth Benefits Office. You have to enroll. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Kevin Morano (713-500-3519) or Mr. D. Forrest Johnson (713-500-8431). Currently, pet-sitting/walking is not included in the services provided. The handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.
- The New Faculty Investigator Boot Camp, an extension of the New Investigator Development Program (Grants 101 and 102 programs), is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2019. This will be an all-day event where we will have successful faculty peers in front of new faculty to provide short presentations that we expect to be of great interest and value. We will provide breakfast, lunch, and a reception for the attendees. The information will be circulated to the Deans the week of September 23, 2019, and we will have the Application site ready to accept applications by September 30, 2019. This is the 'brain-child' of several junior faculty members –several of which are in the IFC: Dr. Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Jeter, and Dr. Moreno-Gonzalez. Keep this event in mind and look for a mass email with the pertinent information. The handout is attached and made a part of these minutes.

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP on 10/12/2019.  
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 10/16/2019.