Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
FY 2020 – October 16, 2019 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Nicholas R. De Lay, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Elahe Ashtari, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Leticia Chaves de Souza for Dr. Ariadne Letra, Ms. Amber Lovatos, Dr. Michelle White for Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Patrick Laird, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Jose-Miguel Yamal for Dr. Michael Swartz, and Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd

Absent: Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Semhar Ghebremichael, Dr. Iram Kazimi, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Mariya Tankimovich, Dr. Michael Swartz, Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey, and Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

Guests: Mr. Eric Solberg

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano and Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Elda Ramirez, IFC Chair FY 2020

Dr. Elda Ramirez, IFC Chair FY 2020, called the meeting to order at 11:36 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Syed Hashmi, Chair, FY 2019

Dr. Ramirez polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for September 18, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Visiting Scientist Program

Mr. Eric J. Solberg, Vice President, Academic & Research Affairs

Mr. Solberg advised the attendees that the Visiting Scientist Program is one of the visiting categories under the umbrella of the Observer, Trainee, and Visiting Scientist Program. The program was created in the early 2000s, was reorganized during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, and has not been formally reviewed since 2010. All UT campuses received a directive from UT System to review their visiting programs. UTHealth started with the Visiting Scientist Program and paused the program in March 2019, while the task force went through a review of the program. Representation from the IFC was on the task force. Mr. Solberg provided the Visiting Scientist Task Force Recommendations to the attendees; a copy is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Major changes in the program include:

- Visiting Scientist appointees will be required to complete the same type of training that all faculty go through, including compliance training, and all of the disclosure filings, which were never previously included.
- UTHealth will accept only up to 200 Visiting Scientists in any one fiscal year.
- UTHealth faculty will be permitted to sponsor up to two Visiting Scientists at a time.
- There is to be a $5,000 fee assessed for any Visiting Scientist application.

Mr. Solberg advised that everything is delineated on our website and he advised that Ms. Yuliana Nunez would send that information out to the membership. Mr. Solberg requested that the IFC membership review the recommendations and send any comments to the IFC Chair to provide to Mr. Solberg.

Campus Reports:
Cizik School of Nursing

- Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki

- We have a new video “Giving Back to Humanity” that was produced by the AACN-TV that highlights the research that our interim dean, Dr. Santa Maria, and three other faculty are working on. The video is on Cizik School of Nursing’s website.

- Drs. Constance Johnson and Joanne Hickey have created a fully furnished one-bedroom smart apartment at the SON to studying aging in place.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

- Dr. Nicholas De Lay

- 2019 GSBS Fall Awards Common Application submission deadline looming. The deadline for the common application for 25 total GSBS Scholarships and Fellowships is October 22, 2019, by 5 PM. [https://gsbs.uth.edu/current-students/awards-and-funding-opportunities/scholarships-andfellowships.htm](https://gsbs.uth.edu/current-students/awards-and-funding-opportunities/scholarships-andfellowships.htm)

- Dr. John J. Kopchick Symposium will be held on Monday, November 4, 2019, in the Onstead Auditorium. The theme is "Navigating Your Early Career” and will feature many exciting from young, successful scientists centered on their career paths and how they ended up in their current positions. A round table lunch for attendees to meet with speakers as well as networking reception will be held at the end of the day. [http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qvtn4kkab&oeidk=a07eglc4qip25bc2339](http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=qvtn4kkab&oeidk=a07eglc4qip25bc2339)

McGovern Medical School

- Dr. Kenya Parks

- Parking
  - Faculty are having issues trying to park when they have paid for contract parking. The spots have been repainted to be so slim as to not fit normal size cars. Other institutions have set aside parking spots for carpool/vanpools. Garage 4 and 7 have been the most complained about by the faculty at the medical school. Please provide feedback concerning any parking concerns you may have to Dr. Ramirez and she will relay it to Dr. Catherine Ambrose.

- Dean, Dr. Barbara Stoll
  - McGovern Medical School 50-year anniversary kickoff.
  - 2 new chairs (Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine)
    - Dr. Ben Bobrow joined McGovern Medical School on June 1, 2019, as Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine, from the University of Arizona College of Medicine.
    - Dr. Mary Aitken will join McGovern Medical School on October 1, 2019, as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief at Children’s Memorial Hermann Hospital, from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
  - McGovern Medical School’s LCME visit is scheduled for March 23-25, 2020.
  - Dr. Milton Chip L. Routt, M.D. will be the distinguished speaker at the White Coat Ceremony. Professor, Department of Orthopedic Surgery--- canceled
  - Arts and Resilience schedule is as follows:
    - November 21, 2019 - Zydeco Accordion, Raa-Raa Carter
    - December 16, 2019 - Blues and Country Guitar, John Egan
    - January 16, 2020 - Harp, Stephanie Gustafson

- Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas, M.D., FAAP, FACC
  - FAC’s Chair. FAC consists of elected leaders from each UT institution- 6 Health Science and 8 Academic, representing more than 20 thousand faculty members. Faculty Advisory Council Academic Year 2019-20, areas of focus:
    - Faculty recruitment and retention
    - Sick leave/parental leave
    - Non-tenured faculty stability
    - Faculty turnover
- Exit interview
- Best practices for salary compression

- **Drs. Citardi & Fatuyi**
  - UTHealthConnect aka EPIC preparation has commenced. Martin Citardi, MD, Professor and Chair, Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, and Vice Dean for Clinical Technology and Babatope “Tope” Fatuyi, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Information Officer for UTHealth.

- **Faculty Affairs; Dr. Kevin Morano**
  - Caregiver and household help through Care.com at uthealth.care.com. For questions regarding your Care.com benefits, please contact Auxiliary Enterprises at 713-500-8400 or David.F.Johnson@uth.tmc.edu, or contact Care.com directly at 855-781-1303.
  - There are 95 applicants for promotion this year.
  - Grants 101: Two-day workshop on conducting research at UTHealth
  - Grants 102: 6-month mentored course slated for February. Applications will be available in December.
  - A new faculty investigator boot camp will take place on November 7, 2019, from 8:30 am-6 pm at the UTHealth Cooley Life Center.

- **Also included and made a part of these minutes is a McGovern Medical School Newsletter**

**School of Biomedical Informatics**  
**Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer**

- SBMI hosted a 24-hour Machine Learning Hackathon on Sept. 14 - 15 that was organized by Professor Xiaqian Jiang and Assistant Professor Yejin Kim. More than 20 Houston-area students participated. The theme was developing machine-learning methods to recognize Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). The winners of the competition were recently announced in an SBMI news story.
- The 2019 Glaser Health Informatics Society will be held on Friday, October 18. The 2019 Glaser Innovation Award Recipient that will speak at the event is Grahame Grieve, recently notable for leading the development of the Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources standard (FHIR). His lecture is entitled “FHIR: The Power of Standards to Change Health Outcomes.” Notably, NIH recently began encouraging the use of FHIR in clinical studies.
- Professor Elmer Bernstam was recently interviewed by local radio station KTRH on the impact that artificial intelligence will have on medicine.

**School of Dentistry**  
**Dr. Michelle White for Dr. Hugh Pierpont**

- Recent UTSD CODA Accreditation site visit September 24-26, 2019.
  - The visit went well and we are waiting on the report from CODA.
- Faculty Assembly 10/16/2019
  - Discussed increasing dental school enrollment.
  - Discussed ways to increase UTSD revenue.

**School of Public Health:**  
**Dr. Ross Shegog**

- Faculty Council is reviewing the following agenda items:
  - Updated Tenure and Promotion Guidelines for SPH Faculty
  - Annual Activity Report and Peer Review – review of possible future revisions. For example, scoring rubric, scoring of educational track faculty with no research responsibilities, clearer definitions on mentoring.
  - Faculty Mentoring Programs Workgroup instituted to explore improved standardized mentoring throughout the UTSPH.
  - Population health initiative and developments in the future of UTSPH.
The Annual Activity Report (AAR) system for faculty reporting on the 2019 academic year (September 1, 2018—August 31, 2019) has closed and is now in the peer review phase until Oct 27.

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 underway with site visits on October 16-18, 2019.

Dissertation & thesis defenses: Two dissertation proposal defenses and two dissertation defenses are scheduled over the next few weeks.

Recent media coverage:
- Nine media interviews occurred recently covering diverse topics including:
  - a recent online MPH degree (Alanna Morrison),
  - crossing the border from Mexico to receive money for multiple plasma donations (Kristina Mena),
  - importance of vaccinations (Cesar Arias),
  - UTHealth flooding mitigation (Bob Emory),
  - nutritional recommendations on dairy consumption (Marcia de Oliveira Otto),
  - partnerships to increase clinical trials in the Rio Grande (Joseph McCormick),
  - gun safety (referenced by U.S. Rep. Lizzie Fletcher),
  - dating violence reduction (Melissa Peskin),
  - CHAT non-profit assisting immigrant and refugee families (alum Aisha Siddiqui).

National Ranking.
Ranking #1 in the top 35 Schools for a Graduate Degree in Public Health in 2019 according to the Health Management Degree Guide.
The ranking is based on determining the highest quality programs offering a master’s in public health. The metrics take into account CEPH accreditation, cost, and student-to-faculty ratio.

The write up is via this link: [https://www.healthcare-management-degree.net/best/mph/](https://www.healthcare-management-degree.net/best/mph/)

Student InterCouncil (SIC) Update
Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd
- Activities include revising bylaws, organizing a Diversity Committee, continuing on the mental health initiative;
- Increasing engagement of the officers with the schools, to increase our communication campus-wide;
- Now have each school report at each meeting, which is a new practice for the SIC; and
The SIC Officers were invited to the UT House Calls by Mercedes Benz. There is a discussion about donating $70K over the next two years for a total of $140K for student scholarships. It would work out to be two $5K scholarships per school. They have suggested that the students design the selection process.

**UT Faculty Advisory Council Update**  
**Dr. Gurur Bliciler-Denktas**

- The UTFAC has three subcommittees: Health Affairs, Governance, and Academic Affairs subcommittees:
  - The Governance Committee is looking at the family grievance policies across the UT System, which was started last year and will continue this fiscal year.
  - The Academic Affairs subcommittee is looking at the affordable learning accelerator efforts that were started in the Spring of 2019 to support and accelerate institutional efforts to expand the availability and affordability of high-quality, low or no-cost, cutting-edge and next-generation institutional and learning resources to students. A few faculty from UTHealth will be on this task force working with Chancellor Milliken.
  - The Health Affairs subcommittee will continue with the Physician Burnout.
- The Student Success and Quality of Teaching pilot is being conducted on the Academic Institutions campuses. McGovern Medical School shared what they are doing in the educational and learning area with this committee and they will be looking at what collaborations they made be able to get started.
- There are other issues related both to the Academic and Health Institutions such as faculty recruitment and retention. Unpaid leave and sick pool areas will be reviewed. What are the best practices for keeping faculty, for Salary Compression? Some surveys are being circulated during exit interviews.

**Review of the IFC Subcommittees’ Accomplishments for FY 2018 and 2019:**  
**Dr. Ramirez**

Dr. Ramirez reviewed two years of IFC subcommittees’ work to assess accomplishments and areas to expand on during FY 2020. She explained the subcommittees’ charges as follows:

**Governance and Academic Affairs Subcommittee:**
The GAA committee will assess and report on the status of non-tenure/clinical track faculty in the 6 schools. The issues of retention, contract longevity, and promotion will be evaluated based on already reported data from previous IFC reports and University data inquiry. A recommendation document from the FAC “Recommendations Concerning Full-Time Non-Tenure System Faculty at the University of Texas System Academic Campuses” from the Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality Committee will be reviewed to support recommendations. The second charge is to evaluate the implemented models for research collaborations among schools.

**Administrative Affairs Subcommittee:**
The AA committee will assess and report on gender bias of UTHealth award committee members and the childcare offerings of TMC institutions while identifying reasons for UTHealth faculty and Staff investment in our Child Development Center.

**Faculty Status, Rights, and Responsibilities Subcommittee:**
The FSRR committee will investigate the feasibility of methods/programs for engaging senior, mid and junior faculty in mentorship. The recent data collected on mentorship by this committee will be the cornerstone for variables and ideology program implementation. Dr. Morano will be a liaison to this group for purposes of institutional capabilities.

The subcommittees sheets were provided for the attendees to sign up to participate.
IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit

Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Ramirez advised that the Burks Scholarship Selection Committee for FY 2020 is set and the details are in your meeting materials packet. The announcement for the students to begin working with their school on submitting applications should be provided in early-November with a due date before the winter holiday break. The Committee will review and select the awardees during the month of January 2020.

Faculty Tribunal

Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Ramirez advised that a confidential electronic poll was circulated for the IFC members to select nominees to fill the two open panel positions. The results from the poll are that Drs. Melanie McEwen from Cizik School of Nursing and Phillip Pierpont from the UTHealth School of Dentistry were selected by the membership for a three-year term on the Faculty Tribunal Panel. Dr. Kevin Morano will provide this information to the Office of Legal Affairs and President Colasurdo.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

• Dr. Morano announced to the attendees that he and Ms. Bete Su Williams from the UTHealth Benefits Office have created a seminar on faculty retirement. Planning from the academic and scholastic point-of-view and planning from the financial point-of-view. Some of the topics that will be discussed are phased retirement, emeritus emerita information, TRS and ORF details, etc. We will schedule this seminar at each school and it will be a 45-minute to one-hour seminar. Dr. Morano solicited for any suggestions of items to be covered during this seminar talk on faculty retirement. He requested that the suggestions be sent to him directly Kevin.A.Morano@uth.tmc.edu or through Dr. Ramirez Elda.G.Ramirez@uth.tmc.edu as the IFC Chair.

• The Inaugural New Faculty Investigator Boot Camp is being conducted on November 7, 2019, and is a prelude to the Grants 101 and 102 programs.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

• Dr. Cameron Jeter advised the attendees regarding the UT Child Development Center –Day Care facility.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 20, 2019.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on 11/20/2019.