

Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes FY 2020 – November 20, 2019 – UCT 1726

Present: Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Nicholas R. De Lay, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Nathan Carlin for Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Elaheh Ashtari, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Lukas Simon for Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Michelle White, Dr. Patrick Laird, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Michael Swartz, Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey and Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd

Absent: Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, and Dr. Ross Shegog

Guests: Dr. Sean Marrelli, Mr. Charlie Figari, Mr. Jim Smiley, Ms. Melissa Pifko, Dr. Sujatha Sridhar, Ms. Amy Dixon, and Dr. Vyju Ram

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

Administrative Personnel: 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 11:32 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr. Ramirez

Dr. Ramirez polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for October 16, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Parking and Shuttle Services: *Mr. Charlie Figari, Vice President and Chief Auxiliary Enterprises Officer*
 Mr. James Smiley, Director, Parking and Shuttle Services

Messrs. Figari and Smiley were invited to attend the November 20, 2019, IFC meeting to discuss parking and shuttle services concerns, as follows:

- Faculty seem to be unaware of how parking works for the UTHealth faculty.
 - Some explanation on the configuration of The Texas Medical Center/UTHealth parking and shuttle system would be appreciated.
- Faculty brought up the primary issues with garage 4 and 7, but many have indicated other UTHealth garages are experiencing similar issues:
 - The garages frequently fill to capacity leaving contract parkers unable to find a place to park. Parkers have to circle for 20-30 minutes waiting for someone to leave or bailing to seek a space in another garage (sometimes without success). This is particularly bad after 10 AM and on days that it rains.
 - The parking spaces are too narrow for even small cars to fit with enough room to open doors and exit the vehicle. This results in frequent damage to vehicles from door dings or worse. Cars compensate by parking just over the line or right up to the edge, leaving the adjacent space too small for anyone to fit – this is also lost space for the garage. More realistic spacing (with re-striping) would allow for people to park within spaces and result in less wasted spaces.
 - Some spots are designated for three vehicles; typically, large vehicle parks in the middle and then no one else can park. If it was designated as a two-vehicle slot, at least another vehicle could be accommodated.
 - Garages should have designated spaces for vanpool vehicles.

Mr. Figari advised that most of the items relayed concerned the Texas Medical Center (TMC) Parking Garages, and he would carry those items to TMC. An open discussion was held concerning the following issues:

- Carpool Vans. Consideration was requested for contract parking spots for carpool van spot. UTHealth has designated parking spots for Carpool Vans; however, they utilize a waitlist when full.
- Dr. Sean Marrelli introduced himself and was in attendance as a guest to discuss parking concerns.
 - Parking spot sizes and striping. Frequent damage is occurring to the cars parked in the small-sized spaces. Fewer spaces occupied at 100% is better than having more spaces that cannot be occupied.
 - Mr. Smiley said he will reach out to TMC concerning this particular issue and will get back to the IFC with the contact information.
- Garage 4 and 7 are the biggest concern to McGovern Medical School.
 - TMC Garage 7 is being managed by a third-party company that TMC hired.
 - Garage 4 may have been taken back by Memorial Hermann.
- Handicap availability is not sufficient –even in the UTHealth managed lots/garages.
- Whether there any innovative solutions for adding parking spaces.
 - There is no land to purchase for parking.
 - Long-term parking solutions are not being expanded in the TMC. TMC believes that parking needs will decrease with rail/buses, etc., options.
- Concern expressed for patients needing parking options. Physicians are hearing that patients do not want to come to the Medical Center anymore.
- Trains and the shuttle are in the same traffic pathway as the cars are and are not a preferred method to many employees.

The IFC membership thanked Messrs. Figari and Smiley for attending the meeting for an open discussion. Further, the IFC asked to be contacted if there was anything the Council could do to help in this regard.

Promotional Speaking Discussion:

***Ms. Melissa Pifko, VP & Chief Legal Officer,
Ms. Amy Dixon, Senior Legal Officer,***

***Dr. Sujatha Sridhar, Executive Director, Research Compliance, Education, & Support Services,
Dr. Vyju Ram, Assistant Director, Conflict of Interest Programs***

Ms. Melissa Pifko advised that she, Ms. Amy Dixon, Dr. Sujatha Sridhar, and Dr. Vyju Ram, were conducting a *roadshow* regarding updating *promotional speaking* policies. Ms. Pifko provided the definition of *promotional speaking* as “*A faculty member who is paid by an outside company, such as a drug or device company, to read from prepared slides that the faculty member did not draft and does not include the faculty member’s findings, research, or opinions, will not be permitted to participate.*” She further explained that what is permitted and encouraged is when a faculty member is paid by an outside company to read from their own slides on their own findings, research, and opinions. This information will be outlined in HOOP 20, Conflict of Interest, Conflict of Commitment and Outside Activities. After a brief open discussion regarding the guidelines update including a cap amount for these activities, the IFC requested to understand what the cap amount is of close-by institutions. The revised policy will come through IFC for review.

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki

- Texas Nurses Association District 9 awarded Drs. Lisa Thomas, Amy Calvin, and Omobola Oyeleye, the Outstanding Nurses Award for exemplary service and contributions to the profession at the 29th annual Nursing Celebration.
- CSON teamed up with the School of Dentistry for *Give Vets a Smile Day* in which 100 vets received dental care in the event sponsored by Delta Dental Community Cares Foundation.
- Dr. Allison Edwards, the Program Coordinator for the Joan and Stanford Alexander Fellowship in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, hosted a panel discussion with five persons living with

disabilities so that undergraduate nursing students could learn more about how to care for disabled patients both clinically and emotionally.

- Veteran BSN student and U.S. Army Combat Medic Joseph Boyle and BSN student Yuliya Aliashkevich were awarded scholarships by Mercedes-Benz of Sugarland.
- Veterans BSN Case Manager Rex Marsau was interviewed about his military career and his work with veterans, as well as his work with the VBSN program at the CSON. This interview can be seen on the CSON homepage.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

Master of Science program major review

- Earlier this year, GSBS undertook a major review of this program, which involved two external and one internal reviewer.
- Major findings: (1) issues of Inclusion (lack of program affiliation), (2) limited career development opportunities, and (3) financial challenges.
- Solutions: (1) allow masters students to affiliate with graduate programs of study, (2) more seminars, workshops, and one-to-one meetings with career development staff, and (3) ongoing discussions with faculty and other stakeholders on possible solutions to the issue of financial challenges.

2021 Review for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

- GSBS is preparing for its review and site visit for reaffirmation of its accreditation by SACS (2021).
- SACS re-reviews accredited institutions every 10 years.
- Dr. Eric Swindell, Associate Dean of Graduate Education, will lead those efforts.

GSBS changes to its Bylaws

- Previous Bylaws required Full or Associate members of GSBS to be faculty at the Professor, Associate Professor, or Assistant Professor level.
- To perform certain responsibilities such as acting as a Course Director for a course, one had to be a member of GSBS.
- A major issue was that some courses were run by university staff, but due to membership requirements, these individuals could not serve as course directors. GSBS by-laws have changed to allow "biomedical professionals who are employed as staff by the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences or a University of Texas institution in Houston, and who hold appropriate graduate degrees may be appointed as Associate Members upon nomination by the Deans and approval by the Membership Committee."

McGovern Medical School

Dr. Kenya Parks

- **Robin Dickey, PhD, Academic Ombuds**

Dr. Dickey gave an overview of the support resources. She highlighted faculty wellness support. Dr. Dickey gave an overview of the Ombuds office and faculty resources.

Office of Academic Ombuds

"A confidential, informal, impartial/neutral and independent place to discuss concerns, resolve disputes, manage conflicts, and increase skills regarding communication, negotiation, and problem-solving."

Phone: 713-500-3457 or confidential mobile: 713-705-5005

Email: ombuds@uth.tmc.edu | Web: www.go.uth.edu/ombuds

Office: University Center Tower (UCT), 7000 Fannin, Suite 165-A

Faculty Assistance Program

<http://go.uth.edu/fap> | <https://www.mylifevalues.com> | www.mylifevalues.com

Username: uth | Password: uth

"Legal & financial services, mental health awareness, self-improvement, stress management, depression resources, child care search, elder care search, disaster resources, fitness & nutrition, and manager resources."

- **Dr. Alejandro Chaoul, PhD**
Director, Jung Center's Mind Body Spirit Institute, Adjunct Faculty, UTHealth's McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics
Dr. Chaoul provided of mindfulness resources. On Friday, December 6, 2019, there will be a meditation seminar. Discussed mind and body solutions that the Jung Center offers
www.mbsihouston.org | AChaul@junghouston.org | alechaoul@gmail.com
- **Dr. Renee Flores:** The Learning Environment and Professionalism Taskforce (LEPT).
"The Learning Environment and Professionalism Taskforce (LEPT) was convened by the Faculty Senate in 2017 to explore student mistreatment and the overall learning environment at MMS. The task force is composed of members from the Faculty Senate, the Office of Educational Programs, the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs, other interested faculty, students, and the Directors of the Learning Environment. The LEPT typically meets monthly." Dr. Renee Flores announced that LEPT is recruiting members.
- **Dr. Philip Orlander:** Discussed the Teacher-Learner Compact. This document outlines a professional code for students and faculty. Senate to provide input and vote to adopt. This part of the preparation for the 2020 LCME.
- **Dr. Sean Riley:** Discussion of the parking initiative. Motion for an official task force within the senate to address these issues. We plan to meet with the TMC. The motion was approved.
- Dr. Parks extended an invitation to the IFC membership to attend one of McGovern Medical School's Senate Meeting.

School of Biomedical Informatics

Dr. Simon Lukas for Dr. Kirk Roberts

- Professor James Langabeer was recently inducted as a Fellow of the American Heart Association.
- Professor Langabeer was also recently appointed to the National Quality Forum's Electronic Health Records (EHR) Data Quality Technical Expert Panel. The committee will be responsible for identifying e-clinical measures and data sources that come from EHR systems that will be developed for future performance outcomes, payment measures, etc.
- SBMI PhD student Roni Matin recently won a LEAD Award from the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). The award includes a travel grant to the AMIA Annual Symposium and recognition next to the leaders in the informatics field at the symposium gala.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Hugh Pierpont

- The School of Dentistry partnered with Cizik School of Nursing for "Give Vets a Smile Day," an event providing health screenings and dental care to military veterans.
- The Commission on Dental Accreditation site visit was completed last month, and we optimistically await the final report.
- The School has been granted "provisional accreditation" for a new residency program in Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology
- No-Shave Movember fundraising activities at the School of Dentistry are spearheaded by the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and Psi Omega Fraternity. The Shave Off is being held on 11/20/2019.

School of Public Health:

Dr. Michael Swartz

- Successful site visit by the CEPH accreditation team. Overall positive feedback, but no official word. We expect to be accredited.
- Working groups between SPH and MD Anderson have started meeting to discuss and work out some details regarding the population health initiative. Education working group met with the charge to come up with the new curriculum and hopes to have a white paper by early next year (February is the target date.)
- The first and 3rd Monday of the month is the Holistic Garden Volunteer hour between 12-1 PM in the holistic garden located between the SPH and SON buildings.

Student InterCouncil (SIC) Update

Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd

- The SIC continues to pursue the relationship with Mercedes Benz USA, keeping a presence at the House Calls events every month.
- Sports Day was held on November 2, 2019, from 9 AM–3 PM, we had 40 people sign-in.
- Salutation was held on October 2, 2019, from 5:30-7:30 PM, and was very well attended with over 200 attendees.
- SIC continues to review and revise their by-laws.
- The Mental Health and Diversity Committees are beginning their processes.
- The SIC is donating turkeys to the Star of Hope for Thanksgiving. We will be volunteering at a soup kitchen in December as well as working with UTPD on the toy drive.

University Classified Staff Council (UCSC) Update

Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey

Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey provided the following information for the IFC membership's consideration:

- Our representatives to the System wide Employee Advisory Council (EAC) have shared that the EAC and the FAC are exploring common issues (such as paid parental leave) and plan to work together to come up with solutions to the benefit of both Faculty and non-Faculty employees on a macro level. We would like to suggest using that same approach with local issues that impact all employees such as the common concerns surrounding parking here at the TMC.
- The UCSC will soon be launching our campaign for the UCSC Education Awards! For those who are not aware, Education Awards are monetary awards given to children of classified staff members who are beginning their college careers. Each student submits an application packet that showcases their academic, extracurricular, and volunteerism achievements. A selection committee then ranks them based on their achievements and the awards are given at the annual UCSC Workshop in July. We would love to have the support of the IFC as we solicit donations for our Donate2Educate campaign.

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UT Faculty Advisory Council Update

Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş

- Regents' Rule 60202, Endowed Academic Positions, policy was amended at the November 14, 2019, Board of Regents' Meeting.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Ramirez

• **IFC Subcommittees**

Dr. Cameron Jeter, Chair of the Administrative Affairs Subcommittee, updated the IFC membership on the final decision of the subcommittee's charge. The Administrative Affairs subcommittee will assess and report on gender-specific representation among faculty leadership positions across the six schools. The specific leadership titles to be reviewed (e.g., Deans, Assistant/Associate Deans, and Department Chairs) will be decided on by the subcommittee based on accessibility.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

- On November 7, 2019, the New Faculty Investigator Boot Camp was held and was very successful. Currently, a survey has been sent to the attendees and presenters for feedback. The Boot Camp is being added to our formal New Investigator Development Program, Grants 101 and 102, which is in the 16th year of the program. Dr. Morano stated that if anyone knew of faculty that were getting into the grant writing arena or struggling in the grant writing arena, please encourage them to participate.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM. The next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP on 01/13/2020.
Approved by Interfaculty Council on 01/15/2020.