

**Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2020 – January 15, 2020 – 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. Elaheh Ashtari, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Nathan Carlin, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Patrick Laird, Dr. Francine Snow, Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki, Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, and Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey

Absent: Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Michele White, Dr. Mariya Tankimovich, and Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd

Guests: Ms. Deana Moylan

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

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 11:35 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ***Dr. Ramirez***
Dr. Ramirez polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for November 20, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Title IX Discussion

Ms. Deana Moylan, Associate VP, Diversity & Equal Opportunity

- The final rules related to SB212 and HB1735 were published on December 12, 2019, by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).
- With the definitive guidance regarding the regulations, the following actions were taken:
 - A message announcing the new regulations was distributed to all faculty and staff after the holidays on January 2, 2020.
 - Information regarding the online training will be augmented with in-person Q&A sessions that were planned for each school following the rollout of the online content -anticipated to be completed on February 3, 2020.
- All IFC members were reassured that the Diversity & Equal Opportunity Office may be reached for any ad hoc questions at 500-CALL (2255) or call@uth.tmc.edu, now or in the future.
- This regulatory change is a big transition to our institution, and the Diversity & Equal Opportunity Office is committed to partnering with the IFC to ensure that all faculty are adequately prepared to avoid violations under these new regulations.
- Ms. Moylan conducted a brief question/answer session with the IFC membership concerning the following:
 - The best recommendation is to report (err on the safe side, always report);
 - Do not report to anyone but the Title IX Office;
 - A respondent can have access to complainant information and reported information to allow due process to occur; and
 - Scenarios were provided, and the attendees asked questions to gain clarity of their reportable responsibility.

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing
No Report.

Dr. Rebecca Tsusaki

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

GSBS prospective graduate student visitations to start this week

- There are four scheduled dates for visitations for perspective GSBS graduate students, which will be Jan. 16-18, January 30 to February 1, Feb. 13-15, and Feb. 27-29

GSBS is seeking nominations for best thesis dissertation awards

- Faculty members that are advisors or members of students advisory committee are asked to nominate outstanding graduate students
- Winning graduate students will receive \$5,000
- Nominations should be sent by January 24 to Brenda Gaughan (Brenda.Gaughan@uth.tmc.edu)

UTHealth CPRIT Innovation in Cancer Research training grant is seeking faculty mentors for the summer undergraduate research program

- Applications are due by January 17 (Friday)
- Projects must contribute to the cancer field
- Applications are available at <http://bit.ly/cpritmenor2020>

McGovern Medical School

Dr. Kenya Parks

- Promotional Speaking: Promotional speaking is prohibited. Industry supported speaking (non-promotional) is permitted with prior approval and per HOOP 20.
 - Features of Promotional Speaking:
 - Subject to FDA labeling and advertising regulations
 - Slides prepared by the company
 - Changes to slides require company and/or FDA approval
 - No CME
 - Nonacademic settings, e.g., dinner meetings at restaurants
 - Features of Non-Promotional Speaking
 - Presentation prepared by faculty
 - Not focused on a single product or products made by a single manufacturer
 - Unbiased discussion of reasonable and relevant treatment options, preferably evidence-based
 - Preferably offers CME
 - Strategies to minimize risks for industry-sponsored paid speaking engagements that do not fall under the category of promotional speaking:
 - Faculty members may not use their academic affiliation when giving talks funded by industry to health care audiences, except to identify him/her as an author of work related to his/her academic or research area or as an indicator of his/her professional credentials. The faculty member must make clear that he/she does not speak on behalf of the university or UT System.
 - Faculty must disclose their financial relationship with industry both orally in the presentation and on all written materials distributed.
 - Faculty must submit copies of the written contract between them and the company to the institution for prior review and approval.
 - Faculty must control the content of their presentations. Faculty should use evidence-based information and present the information in a fair and balanced fashion.
 - Introduce a policy for a 'cap' on compensation from speaking programs with industry partners. (\$50,000 total per company per year as based on FDS 2018 review and the ICOIC thresholds for review).
- University of Texas-Health Title IX:
 - During the 2019 Texas legislative session, Senate Bill 212 was passed into state law and became effective January 1, 2020. The new law requires all current UTHealth employees to report incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking to the Title IX Office and creates

administrative and criminal penalties for employees who fail to report these incidents. Please review HOOP Policy #59 for detailed definitions of these sexual misconduct-related terms.

Contact information for the Title IX Office:

7000 Fannin St., Suite 150

Houston, TX 77030

Phone 713-500-CALL (713-500-2255)

Email: CALL@uth.tmc.edu

Complaint Form: [https://www.uth.edu/hr/documents/eeo/EO Complaint Form.docx](https://www.uth.edu/hr/documents/eeo/EO%20Complaint%20Form.docx)

- *All employees are deemed mandated reporters. There are no statutory limitations. It is crucial to obtain and keep a report receipt as proof of the report.*
- *When the following entities report, they only have to report that the event happened. No identifying information has to be given. "I saw a person that meets the criteria for Title IX for ..."*
 - *Confidential resources for victims:*
 - *Student Health and Counseling Services Counselors*
 - *Assistance Program Counselors*
 - *Patient Care Providers (when serving students or employees)*
 - *Legal Counsel (when advising on covered matters)*
 - *Academic Ombuds (for students only)*
- The Title IX Office is confidential to witnesses, victims, and alleged perpetrators. Incidents are not reported to the dean, department chairs, or leadership unless certain other policies have been violated.
- An employee may be charged with a criminal offense (Class B misdemeanor) if the employee knowingly fails to make a required report or if the employee knowingly makes a false report with the intent to harm or deceive.
- The criminal offense may be escalated if it is determined that the employee intended to conceal the incident. (Class A misdemeanor)
- The law requires that the employment of the employee, regardless of status, to be terminated in accordance with institutional disciplinary procedures.
- Look out for the mandatory training module.

School of Biomedical Informatics

Dr. Kirk Roberts

- In December, SBMI held its annual faculty retreat, with the primary theme being the school's curriculum. While new courses are continuously added, the base curriculum is more than a decade old. Notably, in this time, the school has grown 3-5x in both student and faculty size, with not only more people but also different interest areas that the old curriculum may not be now well suited. The retreat discussed areas of most critical need so that a curriculum re-organization can better address the needs of students.

School of Dentistry

No Report.

School of Public Health:

Dr. Michael Swartz

Faculty Council is reviewing the following items:

- Tenure and Promotion Guidelines for UTSPH faculty – minor changes made
- Professor Emerita Appointment for Cheryl Perry, former Dean of the Austin campus.
- Faculty Mentoring Programs Workgroup exploring improved standardized mentoring throughout the UTSPH departments, and proposing to adopt an enhanced mentoring plan, informed by focus groups and interviews used in the epidemiology dept.
- Population health initiative.

- Annual Activity Report and Peer Review possible future revisions to the scoring rubric, scoring of educational track faculty with no research responsibilities, and clearer definitions on mentoring.
- Population health initiative continuing.

New programs:

- Online MPH in Healthcare Management: A new program with a fall 2020 application deadline of April 1. UTSPH already has an online epidemiology MPH with a Behavioral Sciences MPH in the pipeline.
- The Texas Research-to-Policy Collaboration (Texas RPC) project. This is a non-partisan network that aims to bridge research and policy by supporting partnerships between child health researchers and policymakers. The Michael & Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living is implementing this program, with the intent of identifying state policy priorities, and preparing and engaging researchers to serve as resources for policymakers to promote health, with a focus on child health, during the interim and throughout the 2021 Legislative Session. The 2020 goal is to build capacity for implementation by growing the TX RPC Research Network and connecting with legislative leaders on policies that shape public health. This project will support the facilitation of 10 researcher-policy-maker partnerships in 2019-2021. Researchers are invited to be part of this program. The Texas RPC can be contacted for support for training, hands-on support, and tailored connections to support collaboration between health researchers and Texas policymakers; contact Dr. Deanna Hoelscher, Principal Investigator, for more details.
- Obituary for Ralph Frankowski, Ph.D., faculty emeritus at UTHealth School of Public Health, passed away in mid-Dec. 2019 at age 84. He joined the School of Public Health's division of biometry, now known as the department of biostatistics and data science, in 1970. He served as associate dean for academic affairs from 1976-1982, and interim director of the school's Center for the Prevention of Injury and Violence from 1993-1995. Dr. Frankowski retired from the UTHealth School of Public Health in 2013.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

- The awardees of the President's Scholar Awards have been announced, and there will be an event for the new awardees in April. The awardees are as follows:
 - President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Research:
 - Maureen D. Mayes, M.D., MPH, McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
 - President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Teaching: (Co-Awardee)
 - Patricia M. Butler, M.D., McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
 - President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Teaching: (Co-Awardee)
 - Belinda M. Reininger, Dr.P.H., UTHealth School of Public Health
 - President's Scholar Award for Excellence in Clinical Service:
 - Bela Patel, M.D., McGovern Medical School at UTHealth
- Dr. Morano announced that he and Ms. Bete Su Williams have prepared a presentation entitled "Faculty Life: Planning for Retirement." They will be visiting all schools to permit faculty the opportunity to attend. Dr. Morano explained that the seminars were not 'just' for those expecting to retire very soon, but, rather, for anyone at any point in their careers. Please look for the seminar to be announced and advertised on the FYI monitors.

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, February 19, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on February 4, 2020.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on June 17, 2020.