Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes
FY 2020 – February 19, 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. Donald Molony, Dr. Kenya Parks, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Lukas Simon for Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Cameron Jeter, 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. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Hugh Pierpont, Dr. Ariadne Letra, Dr. Michele White, Dr. Mariya Tankimovich, Mr. Jeffrey Ackroyd

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 11:34 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Dr. Ramirez
Dr. Ramirez advised that the January 15, 2020 minutes approval process would be handled by an electronic meeting at a later date.

III. NEW BUSINESS
UTFAC REPORT
Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas
• Dr. Ramirez announced that we are very excited to have Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktas as the Chair of The University of Texas Faculty Advisory Council (UTFAC) for FY 2020.
• Dr. Biliciler-Denktas advised that the UTFAC comprises fourteen (14) institutions, and they meet at least three (3) times each fiscal year. She advised that the mission of the UTFAC is to provide a forum for communicating ideas and information between faculty, the Board of Regents, and the Executive Officers of UT System.
• No chancellors were available to attend the UTFAC Meeting in Austin on January 30-31, 2020.
• Topics that were discussed included:
  o Elsevier relationship with UT System components;
  o UTFAC met with the Employee Advisory Council;
  o Campus reports were shared from all academic and health affairs institutions;
  o Ms. Krista Anderson, Title IX Coordinator, visited with the UTFAC; fortunately, UTHealth is ahead of the learning curve regarding the new;
  o Discussion concerning online learning;
  o The subcommittees are working on a parental and family leave recommendation for the Board of Regents’ consideration, recognizing that academic organizations are different from health science centers;
  o Grievance system is being reviewed for all campuses;
  o Faculty turnover and exit interviews are being reviewed for all institutions;
  o Faculty recruitment and retention, and salary compression is being reviewed for all institutions; and
  o Hispanic report concerning faculty. Dr. Ramirez will provide the study to the IFC membership.

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, 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 Students stipend changes**

- Currently, Master Students are not guaranteed financial support from GSBS.
- The level of stipend, benefits, and tuition waiver that the student receives is dependent on their advisor (9/26 of current students receive no support).
- GSBS Faculty approved a requirement that Master Students receive tuition, benefits, and stipend of $24,000 to $32,000.
- Students can waive tuition, benefit, and stipend support. This would be appropriate if the student already receives outside support.

**GSBS is exploring a joint MBA/PhD**

- Some peer institutions offer a joint MBA/Ph.D. program.
- Currently under consideration are whether the program is needed (many employers offer to pay for Ph.D. employees to get an MBA), how it would be integrated with the Ph.D. program (concurrently or after Ph.D. completion), where it would be offered (at GSBS-Houston or UT-Austin), and costs.
- A survey of GSBS students indicated an interest in the program; students were much less interested in such a program if they had to pay tuition for it.

**GSBS Admissions update**

- Received 838 applications for the Ph.D. program (17% increase over last year)
- Sent out 150 interview offers.
- ~50 admission offers have been sent out so far.

**McGovern Medical School**

*Dr. Kenya Parks*

**Honored time for Dean Barbara Stoll and Dr. Kevin Morano**

Announcing upcoming events:

Faculty life – Planning for retirement

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

MSB-2.006 from 12 – 1 PM

- Bete Su Williams - Director, UTHealth Payroll and Benefits
- Kevin Morano, Ph.D., Professor and Associate Vice President, UTHealth Faculty Affairs and Development

The session will be streamed and recorded.

Melissa S. Thompson, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Office of Strategic Industry Initiatives (OSII)

Contact information for OSII

Melissa S. Thompson, Ph.D., Associate Director
Sacred Vocation Program, McGovern Center for Humanities & Ethics
Ange Finn, BA Associate Faculty, Program Manager
Sylvia Villarreal, MEd, MPH Adjunct Faculty

Objectives of the Sacred Vocation Programs:
• Nurture the healer
• Provide an undisturbed and safe venue for reflection and discussion
• Focus on the non-medical aspects of healing
• Identify factors that can lead to frustration and burnout
• Refresh and renew participants’ commitment to the profession of medicine

Sessions include:
• See the practice of medicine as a sacred vocation
• Recognize the power to be healers of body, mind, and spirit
• Acknowledge the potential to do harm
• Recognize barriers to work as a sacred vocation and develop strategies to address these challenges
• Renew their commitment to medicine in a group-generated statement of the principles by which they choose to practice medicine.

Impact:
• Overall positive impact on residents on such ideas/topics of:
  o Priorities about what is important in life
  o Appreciating each day
  o Appreciation for the value of own life
  o Having compassion for others
  o Accepting needing others
  o Having a sense of closeness with others

For an in-depth presentation on the Sacred Vocation Program, either informal or as formal grand rounds, please contact

Rebecca Lunstroth
Rebecca.Lunstroth@uth.tmc.edu
713-500-5966

Announcements:
• Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Assistant Professor, UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics
• 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, Transition to EPIC-EMR monthly update

For ongoing updates, please visit UTH.edu/uthealthconnect

Workflow Walk (WFWT) through scheduled on March 24, 25, 26th 2020
• In-Person Sessions
• System demo in Epic applications
• Learn more about UTHealth operations
• Share best practices
• EPIC Definitions that you will see soon:
  • MyChart: MyChart is Epic’s patient portal
  • Healthy Planet: Healthy Planet is Epic’s population health functionality
• **Care Everywhere**: Care Everywhere is Epic's application that provides access at the point of care to the patient's medical records from other organizations.

• **EpicCare Link**: is Epic's web application that allows an approved, designated subset provider at an affiliate organization to view a patient's clinical data from your Epic system using the Internet. Providers are also able to send limited documentation, including Referrals, to UTHealth using this tool. With an approved NDA, this can also be extended to 3rd party billers, where necessary.

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**School of Biomedical Informatics**

*Dr. Lukas Simon*

• SBMI hosted its second 24-hour Machine Learning Hackathon on February 1 and 2. The theme of the hackathon was drug repurposing—specifically, the participants were charged with ranking drug candidates for pancreatic cancer using transfer learning. The hackathon was open to Houston area students and organized by SBMI faculty Yejin Kim and Xiaoqian Jiang. The competition was won by Rice Ph.D. student Mohammad Taha Toghani.

• In April, SBMI will host the Deep Texas Medical AI Symposium. The symposium will feature keynotes from speakers from MIT, IBM, and Amazon, as well as UT System Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs Dr. John M Zerwas. UTHealth speakers include President Giuseppe Colasurdo, SBMI Dean Jiajie Zhang, Michael Blackburn, Robert Murphy, Hua Xu, Xiaoqian Jiang, Todd Johnson, Luca Giancardo, Elmer Bernstam, GQ Zhang, and Cui Tao.

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**School of Dentistry**

*Dr. Michelle White*

• January 9, 2020, UT Physicians Community Clinic Open House and Ribbon Cutting at UTHealth School of Dentistry

• January 28, 2020, began 2nd Annual Diversity and Inclusion week with keynote speaker, Mayor Sylvester Turner

• Mock Board for Senior DS Licensing exam February 10-February 12, 2020

• School-wide Nabers Visiting Lectureship: Inflammation and Periodontal Disease February 14, 2020

• Greater Houston Star of the South Dental Convention February 20, 21, 2020; Faculty and Dental student research poster presentations and awards

• Upcoming Spring Faculty Assembly March 5, 2020, Hack-a-thon full-day event regarding topics:
  - Increasing DS enrollment
  - Curriculum model
  - Clinic model

• Upcoming ADEA (American Dental Education Association) Annual Session and Exhibition
  - March 14-March 17, 2020; Faculty presentations

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**School of Public Health**

*Dr. Ross Shegog*

Faculty Council is reviewing the following items:

• AAR and Peer Review processes: Possible revisions in the future include: Instructions for Faculty Associates and Specialists; Instructions about scoring and commenting on AAR and Peer Review for NTT faculty with no teaching responsibilities; Instructions for educational track faculty with no research responsibilities; More information on mentoring junior faculty; Number of projects and funding for service activities in the community; Faculty Service Survey

• Workload dashboard for assessing and adjusting effort

• Faculty Mentoring Programs Workgroup exploring improved standardized mentoring throughout the UTSHP departments. Proposing to adopt an enhanced mentoring plan, informed by focus groups and interviews used in the epidemiology dept.

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Recent events (selected):

• Public Health Officials Gathered to discuss 2019-nCoV (coronavirus). In response to increasing concerns of 2019-nCoV (coronavirus), public health experts from regional counties, the state and UTHealth School
of Public Health gathered on Wednesday, February 5, to discuss what is known, unknown and what to anticipate about this new strain of coronavirus.

- Diversity Fair 2020 was held on Feb. 12; this was the 11th annual fair themed: "Sharing our Similarities and Celebrating our Differences." This event is hosted by the SPH Student Association (SPHSA) at the Cooley Life Center to encourage and support diversity among all students, staff, faculty, friends, and family of UTHealth. The fair featured booths, performances, and delicious food from around the world.

Media exposure (selected):
- Luis Ostrosky, MD, spoke to Univision Houston Channel 45 about what medical experts and local public health officials are doing to prepare for any potential cases of novel coronavirus in Houston.
- James Langabeer, Ph.D., EdD, MBA, and a patient were interviewed by KHOU-TV Channel 11 about the opioid use disorder prevention program he created called HEROES. The story is slated to air later this month.
- Research on the effectiveness of a youth vaping prevention program created by UTHealth School of Public Health experts was highlighted by WHEC-TV Channel 10 in Rochester, New York.
- Belinda Reininger, Dr.P.H., MPH, regional dean of UTHealth School of Public Health in Brownsville, was quoted in an article in The Brownsville Herald about the link between public access to walking trails and physical and mental health. The Fort Worth Star-Telegram also ran the story.

Dissertation presentations
Four dissertation defenses are scheduled for March and April.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Dr. Ramirez

Thomas F. Burks Review Committee Results for FY 2020

Dr. Daniel Harrington

The Thomas F. Burks Selection Committee for FY 2020 began their review process in January 2020 and concluded on February 11, 2020, with the recommendations to the IFC Membership as follows:

- The Selection Committee participated in an Electronic Meeting where the ranking revealed that three (3) nominees’ scores set them apart from the rest of the nominations.
  - The Committee unanimously decided to make three (3) awards for FY 2020, in the amount of $1,000 for each awardee, as follows:
    - Ayesha Khan from GSBS;
    - Claudia Martinez from MMS; and
    - Alexis Mobley from GSBS.

Upon motion made and seconded, the IFC Membership unanimously approved the Burks Selection Committee’s recommendations, as presented. Dr. Kevin Morano, Associate Vice President of the UTHealth Office of Faculty Affairs & Development, will move forward with the notifications to the Deans at the awardees' schools, and then the awardees. Dr. Morano's office will further organize the announcement details through Public Affairs and coordinate the financial details surrounding the financial awards.

Dr. Ramirez addressed the membership concerning the requirement of the applicants being ‘full-time’ students. Most of the students at CSON are part-time students, full-time employees, during their education. The IFC membership agreed to adjust the guidelines to take out ‘full-time’ from the criteria. Upon motion made and seconded, the IFC Membership unanimously approved the recommendation, as presented.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

- Annual Faculty Reviews results are certified to UT System each year, and we just completed that process.
• The faculty retirement seminars are going great—we are doing the presentation tomorrow at SBMI and then later this month at the medical school.
• ROTA Awards process at UTHealth: Dr. Morano reminded the attendees that the deadline for nominations submissions from the schools is February 28, 2020. We look forward to great applications being received.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS
• The Subcommittee Chairs provided a brief update on where their subcommittee was in the process.

VII. ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:48 PM, and the subcommittees took the time to meet. Dr. Ramirez reminded the membership that there is no meeting in March, and the next IFC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on April 1, 2020.