

**Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes**  
**FY 2022 – April 20, 2022 – Webex**

**Present:** Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Omobola Oyeleye, Dr. Jennifer Bailey, Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Linh Bui, Dr. Nachum Dafny, Dr. Rhashedah Ekeoduru, Dr. Syed Hashmi, Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder, Dr. Nahid Rianon, Dr. Alan Myers, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Assaf Gottlieb, Dr. Arif Harmanci, Dr. June Sadowsky, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Kurt Kasper, Dr. Dharini van der Hoeven, Dr. Vaunette Fay, Dr. Carole Mackavey, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Eric Jones, Ms. Courtney Liddell, and Ms. Angela Hayes

**Absent:** Dr. Yun Xin Fu, Dr. Elaheh Ashtari, and Dr. Seth Stephens

**Absent and Viewed IFC Meeting Recording:** Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Nicholas De Lay

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

**Guest:** Ms. Deana Moylan, Associate Vice President of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

**Administrative Personnel:** Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo and Ms. Liz Vinson

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**I. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***Dr. Cameron Jeter, IFC Chair FY 2022***

Dr. Cameron Jeter, IFC Chair FY 2022, called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM and polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for February 16, 2022. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as presented.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Dr. Kevin A. Morano, Associate VP for Faculty Affairs & Development***

Dr. Morano provided his info as follows:

- Dr. Morano introduced the new Senior Program Manager, Academic and Research Affairs, Ms. Liz Vinson.
- Dr. Morano provided a brief update on COVID-19, stating that the numbers were very low in Houston. He clarified that UHealth Houston's current stance on COVID-19 precautions is to follow CDC guidance and indicated that the Council would be notified upon any changes.
- The President's Scholar Awards are anticipated to open for applications in the coming two weeks. He encouraged Council members to nominate individuals with a long service record with UHealth who have made significant contributions to the University community.
- The McGovern Medical School Dean is expected to be announced in May.
- The initial meeting of the Search Committee for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean will meet in May.
- Promotions season at UHealth Houston is complete, and the UAPTC reviewed a record number of promotion and tenure actions this year. In a comment on gender equity, Dr. Morano noted an encouraging distribution of nearly 50/50 between applicants identifying as male or female.

***Dr. Cameron Jeter, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Update:***

- Dr. Jeter shared a personal testimony conveying her experience with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

***Dr. Cameron Jeter, IFC Chair, FY 2022:***

- Dr. Jeter discussed the experience of touring the TMC3 site on March 28, and thanked the administrative team for coordinating.

- Dr. Jeter provided an update on the status of the Burks Scholarship. She asked committee members to respond quickly to the expected survey email from the Office of Faculty Affairs and Development in the coming weeks.

### III. NEW BUSINESS

***UTHealth Office of Diversity and Inclusion***  
***Ms. Deana Moylan, Associate Vice President of Diversity and Equal Opportunity***

Dr. Jeter welcomed Ms. Moylan and provided details of her role at UTHealth Houston. Ms. Moylan presented on several topics related to diversity and inclusion, including the following highlights:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion website; and
- Mandatory reporting requirements

Ms. Moylan responded to questions regarding further resources related to both topics. She provided the following links for the Council's reference.

<https://www.uth.edu/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>  
<https://www.uth.edu/titleix/texas-education-code-annual-ceo-report>

The presentation given by Ms. Moylan is attached and made a part of these minutes.

### IV. CAMPUS REPORTS

#### **School of Biomedical Informatics Highlights**

***Dr. Kirk Roberts***

Dr. Roberts provided a presentation about the School of Biomedical Informatics, including the following highlights.

- SBMI Vision Statement: Transforming data to power human health.
- The school's research scope includes bioinformatics, imaging informatics, clinical informatics, and public health informatics.
- There are 514 students currently enrolled in the school.

Dr. Robert's presentation is attached and made a part of these minutes.

#### **School Campus Reports**

The campus reports were provided in the meeting materials packet and are made a part of these minutes.

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

***Dr. Carole Mackavey***

- On Monday, March 28, the Nurse-led clinic moved from 7000 Fannin to the ground floor of the UT Professional Building at 6410 Fannin Street, Suite 100. The building opens onto both Main and Fannin streets. "Our new site allows us to continue to provide the same high-quality care with additional layers of convenience, including valet parking and an onsite pharmacy," said Joy Harrison, DNP, MSN, RN, director of UT Health Services. "We look forward to serving all of our clientele in the new and improved space."
- Long-time student favorite Professor Sandra K. Hanneman, PhD, RN, FAAN, became one of the newest members of The University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, MD, Academy of Health Science Education, during an induction ceremony on February 26.

#### **Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

***Dr. Nicholas De Lay***

GSBS Graduate Student Appreciation Week (April 4-8)

- GSBS and graduate student organizations (ASC, AMBR, and ISA) hosted a series of events for GSAW, including a week-long scavenger hunt, professional portrait sessions, mental health and wellness session, and night at Houston Museum of Natural Science. More information can be found on Twitter, under #GSAW2022.

#### Graduate Student Commencement

- Commencement will be held on Friday, May 13 at 4 PM at Minute Maid Park.

#### GSBS Faculty Named AAS Fellows

- Juan Fueyo, MD, Professor of Neuro-Oncology at MD Anderson, Vasanthi Jayaraman, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at McGovern Medical School, and Theresa Koehler, PhD, Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at McGovern Medical School were named American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellows. More information can be found here: <https://gsbs.uth.edu/news/story/3-graduate-school-faculty-members-named-aas-fellows>

#### McGovern Medical School

*Dr. Nahid Rianon*

- McGovern Medical School Office of Alumni Relations named its 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Alumnus Award Winners:
  1. John Cangelosi, MD, '05
  2. Dan Atkins, MD, '75
  3. Arnold dela Cruz Paulino, MD, '89
  4. Greg Swanson, MD, '85
- McGovern Medical School will hold this year's research retreat in person on April 28.
- Class of 2022 met in person for their Match in March.

#### School of Biomedical Informatics

*Dr. Kirk Roberts*

- SBMI is participating in the new University of Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo. Previously, SBMI has offered a 4+1 accelerated Master's program with several partner institutions in the area, including Texas A&M International. Now the center in Laredo will be used to expand outreach in the region, including hiring a new faculty member to be based in Laredo.
- The first student in SBMI's first-in-the-nation Doctorate in Health Informatics (DHI) has successfully defended their Translational Project.

#### School of Dentistry

*Dr. Alan Myers*

- After a nationwide search, Mary (Cindy) Farach-Carson, PhD has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Research. Dr. Farach-Carson is a Professor in the Department of Diagnostic & Biomedical Sciences at UTSD and has served as Director of Clinical and Translational Research. She will begin her new appointment on May 1, 2022.
- SOD held "Give Kids A Smile" on Feb. 25. Fourth-year dental and second-year dental hygiene students provided 1,009 procedures and an estimated \$53,726 value of free care to 135 uninsured, underserved children from the Houston community.
- Lisa Cain, PhD, was the 2022 recipient of the University of Mississippi Medical Center's Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was part of the 5th Annual "The Pillars: Recognition of Service and Inclusive Excellence". Dr. Cain is currently the Associate Dean for Professional Development and Faculty Affairs at the SOD.
- SOD Dean John A. Valenza, DDS has been named a Distinguished Physician for 2021 by the medical staff of Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center and Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital. James W. Wilson, DDS, former professor and vice chair of the Bernard and Gloria Pepper Katz Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, also earned this distinction.

#### School of Public Health

*Dr. Ross Shegog*

##### UTHealth Houston researchers awarded over \$6 million in CPRIT grants

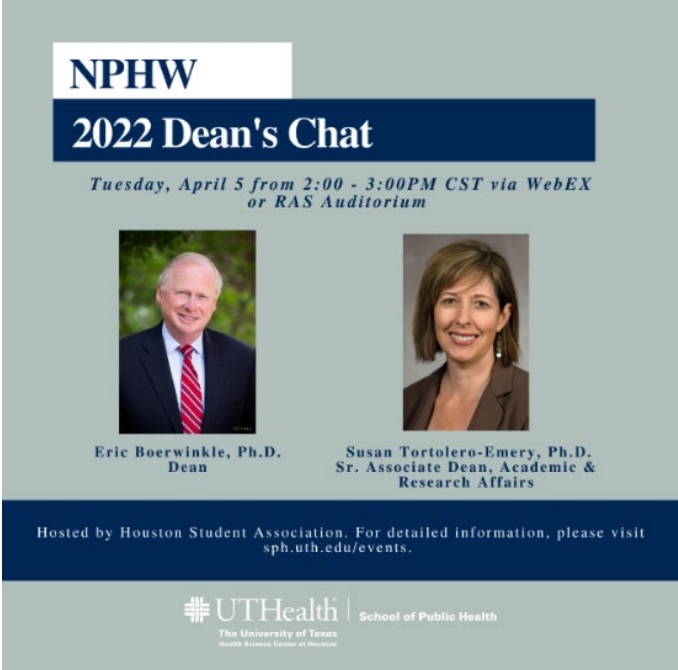
A nearly \$2 million grant has been awarded to Vanessa Schick, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Management, Policy and Community Health at UTHealth School of Public Health in Houston; and Jack Tsai, PhD,

professor and dean of UTHealth School of Public Health in San Antonio, to lead an expansion of the program called GRASSROOTS HEALTH. This is an innovative program in Houston and San Antonio that aims to eliminate barriers to education, testing, and treatment for hepatitis B and C among individuals at risk of homelessness.

**National Public Health Week was celebrated April 4-8**

Several events occurred throughout National Public Health Week. The annual Dean's Chat featured Dean Eric Boerwinkle and Associate Dean of Academic & Research Affairs, Dr. Susan Tortolero-Emery. Themes for the week included:

- Racism: a public health crisis;
- The public health workforce: essential to our future;
- Community: collaboration and resilience;
- World Health Day: health is a human right;
- Accessibility: closing the health equity gap;
- Climate change: taking action for equity; and
- Mental wellness: redefining the meaning of health.



The poster for the NPHW 2022 Dean's Chat event features a light blue background. At the top, it says "NPHW" in white on a dark blue bar, followed by "2022 Dean's Chat" in white on a dark blue bar. Below this, it states "Tuesday, April 5 from 2:00 - 3:00PM CST via WebEX or RAS Auditorium". Two headshots are shown: Eric Boerwinkle, Ph.D., Dean, on the left, and Susan Tortolero-Emery, Ph.D., Sr. Associate Dean, Academic & Research Affairs, on the right. At the bottom, it says "Hosted by Houston Student Association. For detailed information, please visit sph.uth.edu/events." and includes the UTHealth logo and "The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health".

**Markham Appointed Chair of the Department Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences**

As of March 16, 2022, Christine Markham, PhD, has officially been appointed as Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences at UTHealth School of Public Health. After serving as interim chair since 2019, Dean Eric Boerwinkle, PhD has identified Markham as the most qualified candidate to take on the leadership role. With over 30 years of experience in the development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of child and adolescent health promotion interventions, Markham brings to her newest leadership appointment extensive experience in all aspects of promoting and building upon the University's mission.



The image shows a woman, Christine Markham, with blonde hair, wearing a dark sleeveless top. To her left is a dark blue box with white text that reads "Markham appointed as Chair of the Department of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences". Below the text is the UTHealth logo and "The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Public Health".

**V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

*Dr. Jeter*

- A follow-up tour will be scheduled with TMC3, and Ms. Liz Vinson will advise Council members of the date once it has been finalized.
- An electronic meeting to finalize the *Burks Scholarship* selections is expected in the coming weeks. The Office of Faculty Affairs and Development will be in contact with further details soon.

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS**

*Dr. Jeter*

The Subcommittees Breakout Sessions: The membership was advised that they would be automatically moved into their Subcommittees and that there was no need to return to the IFC Webex when the Breakout Sessions finished.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Dr. Jeter*

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at 12:41 PM.

- The IFC membership was moved into their respective subcommittee breakout session.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Vinson, on April 29, 2022.

Approved by Interfaculty Council on May 18, 2022.