McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Faculty Senate

Thursday January 18, 2024 l 4:30pm l Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm with a quorum of members present.

1. Housekeeping

Attendance rules (attend a minimum of 60% of the monthly meetings).

It is important for online meetings that dial-in attendees email Valerie Guerrero with their call-in number so that each caller can be properly identified.

Please remain muted unless speaking and the chat will be monitored regularly for questions.

If you know you will have an absence, please reach out to Valerie Guerrero so it may be excused.

1. Approval of Minutes (November 2023)

There were no corrections to the minutes from the November 2023 meeting; the minutes were accepted to the final record as written.

1. Reports
2. Faculty Affairs Update – Dr. Nahid Rianon, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

* Celebration upcoming for Women and Girls in Science

Symposium is being held February 8th from 4-5:30pm in MHH Conference Center

Reception to follow

Featuring speakers: Michelle Hebl, PhD; Sandra McKay, MD; Carmen Dessauer, PhD

* Excellence Awards for Distinguished Faculty now accepting nominations

Submission deadline January 31, 2024

1. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Erin Fox, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

* IFC has had two meetings since our last Faculty Senate Meeting (Dec 20/Jan18)
* December 20th speakers, Scott Forbes and Kara Crawford

Discussion of most recent legislative session

UT System received an increase in funding overall

Specifically received $20M for TRC4, which is accepting proposals for trauma related research, due 2/6/24

See TRC4.org for more info

* January 18th speaker: Kevin Morano, PhD-VP of Academic and Faculty Affairs

Answered IFC posed questions

Discussed his top 2024 initiatives

1. New SPH building, open Fall 2026
2. TMC3 collaborative building is open- Texas Therapeutics Institute has moved into TMC3
3. NEW UTHealth Houston Hospital in early discussions, which would be joint with Memorial Hermann
4. School of Behavioral Health Sciences currently developing educational programs
5. UT Health Houston considering applying to be an NCI-Designated Cancer Center
6. Planning to expand Bellaire multispecialty clinic and potentially open more in surrounding areas

Of note, UTHealth Houston is not considering moving to a PTO model like other UT system components

1. New Business
2. McGovern Medical School Strategic Plan- Dr. Latanya Love, Dean of Education

* Strategic Plan FY24-28
* Education Goals

The medical school will prepare students to provide outstanding patient-centered care, while exhibiting the highest principles of professionalism and integrity

The medical school will also provide an environment in all settings that supports student learning.

* Clinical Enterprise Goals

Continue to develop innovative models of care delivery

Improve opportunities for Behavioral Health services

Develop community-based health programs

Promote stronger, patient focused affiliations with our major academic and community partners while aligning our strategic and financial goals with the stakeholders

Demonstrate continuous improvement of patient safety and quality measures

Develop and enhance Interprofessional Education (IPE) programs

Focus on recruitment and retention of outstanding clinical faculty

* Research Goal

The medical school will provide the resources and environment needed to enable the development of a sustainable culture of inquiry, which is intended to integrate research into the daily professional operations of all service and education activities

* For a further list of outcomes and objectives will be available upon completion and publication of the Strategic Plan

1. Dean Teaching Awards - Dr. Mark Hormann, Vice Dean for Educational Programs- Current criteria for Dean Teaching Awards (DTEAs)
2. Teaching activities
3. Quality of teaching
4. Educational administration and service
5. Curriculum development and/or assessment
6. Educational research and scholarship

* Process for selecting DTEA recipients is currently an email sent to chairs

This email is then often sent vice chairs for proposed individuals. An issue arose that all vice chairs did not necessarily use the same criteria to decide on awards. Over time, the school noted to the majority of recipients to be Assistant Professors, then Associate and finally, Professors

* Concerns with the current process of nominations for DTEAs

Same people are receiving this award annually

Sufficient opportunity for those in early career development

Question posed- Should there be a more meaningful award for those perpetual awardees?

* Proposed changes as suggested by faculty senators:

Encourage vice chairs to prioritize early career educators

Limit number of times a faculty member can get a DTEA at that rank

Alternate years of awards

Change percentage threshold for departments

Unique award for full professors who have received multiple DTEAs

* Dr. Hormann is requesting feedback and ideas about how to improve this process and help acknowledge new and long-term faculty
* If you have any thoughts or feedback- or want to be more involved in education please email Dr. Hormann:

Mark.D.Hormann@uth.tmc.edu

1. Emerging Infections - Dr. Luis Ostrosky, Vice-Chair, Healthcare Quality Division Director & Professor, Infectious Disease

* Current COVID-19 update for US

Test positivity and ED visits are coming down from a peak

This information could be unreliable given decreased testing

Hospitalizations and Deaths have increased recently

This increase could be due to increased travel and holidays

* Dominant variant of COVID right now is HV.1

Current vaccine covers this variant and no data exists on increased transmissibility

* Wastewater of Harris County has a viral load of 382% since 2020

This number is high for Harris County with all sites appearing to have COVID-19 in our local water beyond a typical range

* MHHS now monitoring flu, COVID and RSV in patients

Many cases of flu currently, but data suggests our hospital system is post-peak

RSV admissions low and data suggests diagnoses have peaked already

COVID is still on a positive incline in number of cases and we have patients currently in ICU on ventilation

* COVID-19 Policy and Procedures

Masking required with high risk patients, e.g. Transplant and Oncology

UTSystem/MHH no longer doing testing on admission, depends on symptoms

MHH and UTSystem still have limited visitation policies in place

Return to work policy has not changed

Current recommendation to stay at home for 5 days and employees can return to work if afebrile after that time, must mask for additional 5 days at work

* Therapeutics

Trying to avoid progression, mortality, viral load and improve symptoms

First choice drug in and out-patient is Paxlovid

No supply issues at this time, but the hospital has seen some issues with insurance coverage to be aware of.

* Vaccine season is still happening, and recommendations include:

Flu ASAP for anyone >6 months

COVID-19 single does for anyone >6 months

Boosters can be done ~4 months since last booster or episode of COVID

RSV recommended >60 years of age or pregnant between 32-36 weeks; however keep in mind they are different vaccinations.

* On the Watch List: Measles

Current outbreaks appearing in news, and Harris county is at our lowest MMR vaccinations rates. Primary transmission appears to be travel to endemic areas

1. Announcements
2. Charles S. Cox, Jr., M.D. was appointed director of the Center for Translational Injury Research
3. 2024 Fetal Center and Maternal Fetal Medicine Symposium, Jan 27-28, 2024 (virtual) <https://www.eeds.com/portal_select_sponsor.aspx>

Conference ID=374660

1. Grants 102-Febuary to July 2024- open to all individual with faculty appointments <https://www.uth.edu/nidp/grants-102/application-process-for-grants-102.htm>
2. Annual Women and Girls in Science Symposium-February 8, 2024, 4:30-6pm. Hermann Conference Center, Children’s Memorial Hermann
3. Adjournment at 5:24 pm

Next Meeting: February 15, 2024 at 4:30pm

Dr. Summer Ott- Chair

Dr. Erin Fox-Chair-Elect

Kathryn Leal, MS, CGC- Secretary

Dr. Matthew Baker-Secretary-Elect

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder- Past Chair 2022-2023