

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate December 9, 2009

In Attendance: Bennett Amaechi, Margaret Brackley, Mark Nadeau, Yidong Bai, Keith Krolick, Mark Soucy, Barry Norling, Kaparaboyana Kumar, Krista Bowers, Brent Shriver, Donna Gardner, Diana Beckmann-Mendez and Sara Gill.

Absent: V Sreenath Reddy, Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Peter Gakunga, Sally Combest, Christopher Franka, James Roberts, Catherine Ortega, Allison Beck, Nandini Ghosh-Choudhury, Qitao Ran, and Joe Conner.

Convened: 4:00 PM

University Topics: Updates

Dr. Theresa Chiang, VP for Academic Administration

Office of the President (Mary DeLay)

- Status of two dean searches currently underway:
The School of Medicine Dean Search Committee received 56 applications for the position. The Search Committee is led by Dr. Ken Kalkwarf and assisted by a search committee and search firm. Eight candidates were selected for first-round interviews that will be held on December 2 and 3. The Committee will then recommend to President Henrich six finalists, possibly five, who will be asked to return for interviews in January and February, 2010. At that time, a group of faculty, staff, students, and hospital partners will be invited to meet with the candidates. The finalist will be selected in March/April by Dr. Henrich.

The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences Dean Search Committee received 37 applications, and 11 candidates were chosen for interviews on November 30 and December 1. The Search Committee is led by Dr. Ken Hargreaves and assisted by a search committee and a search firm. The Committee will be recommending to President Henrich up to six finalists to return for a second round of interviews. These will be held during January and February, 2010 and group of faculty, staff and students will be invited to meet with the candidates. Dr. Henrich will select the finalist in March/April.
- The format of the Presidential Awards will be changing in January. It will be a smaller group of invitees, rather than an open invitation to all faculty, staff and students. We have found that those who typically attend the event only attend if they know the honoree thus we are asking the honorees to provide a list of invitees (colleagues as well as family). This way we will be able to have a nicer and more personalized event. The event was due for an overhaul. We have come up with some creative ways to celebrate the winners using the inside portal and HSC News.
- The HSC logo is now a registered mark – and the University authority is asking each department administrator for their help in reviewing their departmental/program materials that carry the logo in order to help us make this transition from the outdated TM to the encircled R.

Update on SWIAC about health care issues

Bonnie L. Blankmeyer, Executive Director, EEO/AA Office

Bonnie is the representative to this group that makes decisions about our health insurance. Last year we voted to make incremental changes to our health insurance instead of making all the changes at once. We can expect a slight increase in cost next year in addition to the one we experienced this year.

A question was raised as to whether each campus could have a different insurance plan. This is allowable under the UT-system and there are rules in place should campuses choose to do this.

Another question was raised concerning the loss of the HMO option. Dr. Blankmeyer explained that the HMO would cost the system too much and was discontinued. The questioner asked whether the system had considered the possibility (as other organizations have) of letting participants pay more for the HMO so the impact on the system would be cost neutral. The lower out of pocket costs of the HMO option might make it attractive even at higher monthly premium cost.

RationalMed, a program to oversee medicines management with multiple physicians, is to be implemented in February 2010. The reason given is safety changes with prescription meds. Prescribers and pharmacists will be called if there is an alternative medication that could be used effectively to save money or symptoms. Issues around privacy were raised by senators. Interference with medical practice is also a concern.

Senate Business

Senate participation in Annual Faculty Appointment, Promotion and Tenure workshop -subcommittee met, needs volunteers from noon to 1:45 pm February 3, 2010. Need anyone on past PTAC for HSC or department/school committee.

Policy on 'Cost Sharing on Sponsored Programs'-no issues were raised by faculty on this policy. A concern was raised about how the F&A funds returned to the faculty/schools will be distributed/used.

Update on Faculty Advisory Council raised concerns about campus Exigency plans and the fact that the plan was not followed in Galveston. Campuses are asked to review their policy to see what concerns might be. The UT-System has named a panel to review this.

Dr. Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal was elected, by a simple majority of the faculty senators, to represent the Faculty Senate at the Executive Council for Space Management.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.