

Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, September 14, 2016
ALTC 2.205

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Lori Pounds, Chair – Faculty Senate

- Announcements – Dr. Lori Pounds
 - Under general business, Dr. Pounds noted the importance of recording attendance in the sign-in sheets. Dr. Challa informed the Senators in Executive Committee that a poll would be sent out to identify meeting time preferences for the Executive Meeting. (day of the week, and time of day).
- Awards: Two Faculty Senate awards were conferred. Dr. Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Director of the Division of Reproductive Research in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was honored as the recipient of the 2016 Faculty Leadership Award. Dr. Aggie Manwell-Jackson, Director of the VITaL Center, was conferred the Administration Leadership Award.
- Discussion with President Henrich
 - Dr. Challa introduced President Henrich, and asked him to provide the Senate with his perspective on shared governance, update the Senators about the CTRC and MD Anderson affiliation; and other initiatives that the President wished to highlight.
 - President Henrich thanked Dr. Pounds for her leadership in the past year as Chair of the Faculty Senate, and welcomed Dr. Challa in his new role. President Henrich spoke about the importance of continuous communication as foundational to establishing shared governance. He stated that he meets regularly with diverse faculty groups, and is committed to broad and inclusive faculty representation across multiple committees. As examples, President Henrich noted that the Health Science Center's Executive Committee includes the presence of the Chair of the Faculty Senate and highlighted that faculty representatives served on the Strategic Planning Steering Committee. In addition to meeting with the Faculty Senate Officers, President Henrich referenced his meetings with the Council of Principal Investigators, and his monthly lunches with new faculty. He said the fundamental purpose for deploying different strategies for communication and engagement, including campus town halls, is to share with the Health Science Center community the priorities for the University and how the institution is meeting these priorities. President Henrich is eager to hear from faculty and to receive their input and feedback on the direction for the University, to make modifications as needed. As faculty seek him out to bring issues to his attention, President Henrich asked that they tell him not only what is wrong but what could be an actionable step the institution could take to improve the situation.

President Henrich also updated the Senators on different institutional initiatives including the proposed affiliation between the CTRC and MD Anderson Cancer Center.