UTHealth McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate  
Thursday, September 16, 2021 | 4:30 pm WEBEX  
Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 4:30pm - Dr. Catherine Ambrose
2. Approval of Minutes (August 2021)
3. Dr. Kevin Morano thanked the Senate chair and secretary from 2020-2021.
4. Transition of Chair – from Dr. Catherine Ambrose to Dr. Nahid Rianon
5. Announcements
   a. Welcome new Senators- Dr. Rianon
   b. Housekeeping-
      • If you call into the meeting, please email Valerie and Dr. Rianon so that you get credit for attending
      • 60% attendance to meet requirements as part of the faculty senate
   c. Women in Medicine Month Celebration- September is the month of this celebration
      • Total UTH women faculty 751, Associate Dean 3, Assistant Dean 1, Vice Dean 3, Department Chair 4, Interim Chair 1
6. Reports (15 minutes)
   a. Faculty Affairs Update – Dr. Kevin Morano
      • September 1st ➔ 94 applications for promotion: 14 tenure, 80 non-tenure track
      • Extensions given to tenure track faculty 2/2 to COVID
      • MAPP launched, 15 groups, 176 mentees, 30 mentors
      • Annual Faculty Review Started-Important for faculty to use for promotion, compensation, titles, feedback
      • Women Faculty Forum- accepting applications for Excellence Awards (due September 28)
   b. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder
      • Dr. Cameron Jeter – new IFC Chair transitioned from Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer
      • Dr. Morano reported on the Town Hall updates
      • Funding for UTH – received $8.8 million (3.9%) increase in Instruction & Operations funding
      • New Legislation passed
         • SB1251 – SPH & MDACC offer a joint degree
         • SB1780 – Texas Infrastructure for Public Health (Pandemic Preparedness – Public Health Workers as a Reserve Force)
         • HB2090 – Texas All Payer Claims Database (Comprehensive health care resource of claims data to inform policy, provide transparency, drive quality)
7. Old Business (5 minutes)
   a. MMS COVID-19 Resolution – Dr. Catherine Ambrose
      • Resolution passed based on faculty senate votes
8. New Business (20 minutes)
   a. Proposed Faculty Health Support Taskforce – Dr. Nahid Rianon
      • Focus on resilience
      • Survey in 2016-2017: Ombudsman program developed
      • Added stressors in pandemic, personal life entanglements with work life
         • Voting through polling in chat box – proposal of forming a task force was approved with >50% vote during the meeting
         • Dr. Morano ➔ UT System has a working group on burnout and
resilience. Meets twice a year. Last meeting 9/16/2021. They are continuously looking for ideas to decrease burnout and improve resilience.

b. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Luis Ostrosky
   • Admissions still high in the TMC hospitals
   • Elective surgeries are still on hold
   • Pediatric admissions are increasing, used to 5% and now as high as 20%
     • Prior congenital diseases, and now more without any comorbidities
     • Schools are open and now higher level of transmission in the schools therefore spike in cases
   • CDC forecasting for Texas & Harris County
     • Delta variant is more infectious, 5x more infections
       • Breakthroughs: vaccinated people may experience breakthrough infection and this includes delta variant
       • Unvaccinated vs vaccinated people- greater risk of disease is still seen in unvaccinated people
       • Booster doses of COVID vaccine
         • Pfizer likely to be approved around 9/20/21
         • Moderna and Johnson & Johnson data are still pending
   • COVID vaccine can now be ordered for patients while in the hospital
   • Employers > 100 employees mandate for vaccines (Institutions that receive Federal contracts, such as UT-H may be included in the mandate). It’s unclear how state and federal mandates that conflict will be decided.
   • FAQs/Review scenarios on University website regarding exposures and definitions of exposures for guidance. There are also instructions for concerning cases and reporting, policies and procedures.

c. Resident Stress From COVID-19 Related Exposure in Children – Dr. Amanda Herrmann
   • “Residents as parents in the time of COVID”
     • “So. Hard.”
     • Uncertainty- will kids need quarantine, need time off, multiple kids at multiple schools, how to manage emergent call
     • Finances- residents cannot afford reliable child care, hard to find child care, care.com not a viable option for back up
     • COVID illness- even if vaccinated-not a guarantee, kids cannot be vaccinated, multiple kids in the same house, not having the option to stay home with sick kids
     • Emotional stress- small number of female parent residents, unique situations, impression on Program director and co-residents, stress from daycare calls, how does time off impact training
   • What to do? Reach out to parent residents, Be understanding, Be clear about sick days, new ABMS leave policies, understanding of resident commitment

d. GME Update on COVID-19 Related Stress – Dr. Pamela Promecene
   • Weekly average of TMC Daily COVID cases increased
   • Timeline Review of COVID from March 4, 2020 to July 2021
   • UTH Resources for management of COVID related stress
     • Insecure about ability
     • Lack of support system
     • Fear of COVID
     • UTHHealth website→Wellness→Wellness Hub→FRAP (fellow, resident assistant program) Program Services→Emotional Health Resources in the Time of Coronavirus
     • Search McGovern Medical school website→COVID 19 new (in search tab)→
UTHealth COVID-19 Resources

• GME perspective: discussed following topics-
  • Vacation
  • Sick leave
  • Administrative time
  • Scheduled day off
  • Sick leave/FMLA/personal leaves
  • Research time
  • Telemedicine
  • Graduation requirements: ABMS and ACGME requirements

9. Announcements
   a. McGovern Cook Book, recipes to Jennifer Ramos

10. Adjournment at 5:36pm

Next meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Dr. Nahid Rianon – Chair
Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder – Chair-Elect
Dr. Renee Flores – Secretary
Dr. Olasimbo Chiadika – Secretary-Elect
Dr. Catherine Ambrose – 2020-2021 Past-Chair

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