UTHealth McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate
Thursday, January 20, 2022 | 4:30 pm
WebEx Meeting

MINUTES

1. Introduction
   a. Call to Order– Dr. Rianon, 4:30pm
   b. Housekeeping reminders

2. Approval of Minutes – November 2021

3. Reports
   a. Faculty Affairs update – Dr. Kevin Morano–
      • Review of Omicron trend. Continue to recommend minimizing large gatherings.
        Federal Mandates at this point only impact HCPC to show proof of vaccinations.
        • Promotion- 10 meetings over 3 months, 96 promotions in the works
        • Dean search in process, stay tuned for updates – maybe February- March latest
        • Dr. Blackburn → retiring, will be announced soon
      •
   b. Dr. LaTanya Love, Dean of Education
      • Oversees OEP, OASA, GME, ODI
      • Works with leaders of student support areas to ensure our students are getting services (student financial, health and counseling, auxiliary)
      • Dr. Butler retired, Mark Hormann is the new Vice Dean for OEP
      • COVID response for students, high for students
      • Graduation updates → Friday, May 13th, Speaker Brene Brown at Minute Maid
      • Medical Student Admissions last interview date tomorrow, 1/21/2022
      • LCME visit May 23-25, issues including mistreatment, feedback, observed physicals
      • A portion of the OEP staff are moving from JJL to MSB
   c. Dr. Luis Ostrosky – Updates and follow up about current COVID-19 surge and Omicron variant
      • 5th wave of COVID: Wastewater surveillance; positivity rate decreasing in Houston, and expected to continue to decrease over the next two weeks
      • TMC Data continues to show a weekly average high, which is expected to be higher than reported because people are testing at home
      • Hospitalized COVID patients are 92% unvaccinated, showing that vaccinations are working
      • Omicron is 99% the variant in circulation in Texas. Milder symptoms with vaccination, and still high hospitalization rates for nonvaccinated people. Booster also shows protection
      • Booster also recommended for 3rd/4th doses. Mixing and matching brands of vaccination have shown to have better results.
      • CDC likely to redefine “fully vaccinated” to include boosters
      • Regeneron and Lilly monoclonal antibody treatments phased out due to no effect on Omicron. GSK in extremely limited supply. Astra Zeneca long-acting PreP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) limited availability
• Pfizer pediatric vaccinations (1/3) for 5-11 years old approved low uptake. 0.5-4 years will likely go to 2Q22 or longer due to dose selection problems
• Conflict between federal vaccination mandates and state bans to be decided by courts. OSHA rule stricken. CMS requirement upheld.
• Paxlovid (Pfizer) and Molnupiravir (Merck) received FDA EUA. Limited doses, distribution started 12/31/21. Issues to consider with both drugs. Vaccination is still best option
• New return to work rules (5 +/- days testing) balance science with the very real risk of infrastructure collapse
• Increased antigen testing in the community. Known limitations. Unreliable
• CDC recommends higher quality masks in community settings as tolerated.
• CDC reports increased risks of juvenile diabetes mellitus diagnosis after COVID-19
• Monoclonal Antibody forms will be emailed

d. Dr. Mandy Hill and Dr. Susan Wootton (Co-Chairs)– Women Faculty Forum (WFF)
• Mission: Advocate, create and deliver opportunities for professional development on behalf of women faculty at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth.
• Vision: The vision of the WFF is to positively influence the academic experience of the Women Faculty at our institution. Through this vision, our goal is to increase the retention of the Women Faculty in Academic Medicine.
• Women and Girls in Science Symposium February 11, 2022, 4:30-6pm
• Opportunities: Mentoring, Get Connected, AMWA Early & Mid-Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Seminar, Stay Connected (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

e. Interfaculty Council update – Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder
• UTHealth Organizational & Talent Development in Human Resources
• Leadership Institutes
  • Emerging Leaders (Fall 2022)
  • Executive Leadership (Fall 2022)
• Mentorship Program, Toastmaster, Links in Learning, Learn to Succeed, Employee Engagement & Onboarding – New updated orientation program
  https://www.uth.edu/hr/resources/new-employees/newemployeehome.htm

4. Old Business
   a. Mental Health Support Taskforce – Dr. Stacy Norrell
      • Email Dr. Stacy Norrell or Dr. Nahid Rianon for more information

5. Announcement:
   a. Employee Health information- Phone: 713-500-3267 Hotline: 713-500-2683
      • Exposure risk assessment form: https://uthmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eu2EXqr7U6CNqAJ


6. Adjournment 5:20 pm
Next meeting: Thursday, February 17, 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
https://med.uth.edu/faculty-senate/
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