1. Introduction
   a. Call to Order: Time started: 4:30pm

2. Transition of Chair - Dr. Nahid Rianon and Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder
   a. Welcome
      ■ Thanked Dr. Rianon for her outstanding service to the senate last year.
      ■ Introduction of executive committee members.
      ■ Welcomed new senators.
   b. Housekeeping
      ■ Attendance at Faculty Senate meetings must be a minimum of 60% and virtual meeting format will continue this year.
      ■ All faculty can attend, but only senators can vote.
   c. Women in Medicine Month Celebration

3. Approval of Minutes - August 2022 - Approved

4. Reports
   a. Faculty Affairs Update – Kevin Morano, Ph.D., Senior Vice President & Chief Academic Officer, ad interim, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, McGovern Medical School, Professor, Microbiology and Molecular Genetics
      -- Welcome by Dr. Morano, emphasized that faculty senators are voices for their respective departments.
      -- Send issues to the Chair – Dr. Hergenroeder.
      -- Update on Dr. Rianon – has taken time off due to illness but she is doing well, Dr. Morano is in touch.
      -- Promotions: The office of Faculty Affairs has received 105 promotion applications this year: 17 are tenure track, 50 are women and 55 men. Dr. Morano and Mr. Johnson George have met with 73/105 prior to promotion. If interested in applying for promotion, set up an appointment with Dr. Morano, the earlier the better.
      -- Mentoring and promoting program (MAPP) – 130 faculty participated, a dozen mentoring groups. Variable results, learning and improving. 100 new applications for this year’s MAPP. Great for junior faculty and associate professors.
   b. Interfaculty Council Update – Georgene Hergenroeder, Ph.D., Faculty Senate Chair
      1. What’s New page on the HOOP website (https://www.uth.edu/hoop/whats-new.htm)
         -- You can find the updates in HOOP at the link provided.

5. Old Business
   COVID-19/Infectious Disease Update – Luis Ostrosky, M.D., Vice-Chair, Healthcare Quality, Division Director & Professor, Infectious Diseases, Internal Medicine:
   Emerging infections – mid September update
a. COVID-19:
--- The trend is really good, decreased number of cases and hospitalizations and deaths. No good coverage for vaccines.
--- Harris County – downgraded to medium risk – lowest in weeks. Waste water level of viral load is down from 700% to 345%. Bed occupancy downward trend.
--- Questions: are we going to have a winter surge? Due to immunity drop off, new variances. There is consideration of once per year booster vaccinations.
--- MHH and UTP have reduced risk level to low-to-medium. We can now unmask in non-clinical areas.
--- Boosters – 2 new bivalent boosters - ancestral + B.4/B.5. Pfizer ≥12 years of age, Moderna ≥18 years of age. We have more of Pfizer and small of Moderna. Available at UT physicians vaccine clinic.

b. Monkey Pox:
--- also has downward trend, due to vaccination efforts in the community, vaccinating population at risk,
--- seen cases in MHH and UTP, first mortality in Houston in an immunocompromised host
--- Symptoms usually painful genital lesions/ulcers – mistaken for genital herpes until disseminated rash
--- mostly HIV infected men having sex with men, also contacts with prolonged exposure. Primarily sexual transmission.
--- UT Physicians is a vaccination site with health department.

c. Polio strains circulating (threat for people have not been vaccinated), mostly in New York. If you have normal childhood vaccinations, you will be protected

d. Questions raised:

- Not much concern regarding high lack of childhood vaccinations in Texas except in Austin – where there are the highest rates of unvaccinated children. COVID pandemic related drop off in vaccination rates, social determinants of health and antivaccination movements also a concern.
- Cross over vaccination encouraged, i.e., can switch from Pfizer to Moderna vaccines
- Recommend not to wait more than 10 days after COVID infection to get vaccinated. No proven benefit to wait longer. Antibodies persist for 3 months. Get vaccination right after discontinuation of isolation.
- UTP has both vaccines available. Walk-ins okay but prefer appointments. Hours are: 1-4pm weekdays.
- Influenza and COVID vaccines are being given at the same time, actually less likely to get side effects.

6. New Business
a. Strength in Diversity Taskforce – Georgene Hergenroeder, Ph.D., Faculty Senate Chair
   o Diversity brings strength in an institution; gender diversity is associated with improved problem solving, more citations in journals,
   o What can we do to increase recruitment and retention of diverse faculty?
   o Underrepresented groups of 15-30% in an institution results in less stereotyping and improved inclusivity (McGovern Medical school has about 16% - in fair position)
   o Dr. Hergenroeder called for taskforce to join her to examine reasons why diverse faculty come to McGovern Medical School, and explore measures improve retention and recruitment.
   o Email Valerie Guerrero or Dr. Hergenroeder if interested. Will be working with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee led by Dr. Asia McCleary.
7. Announcements
   a. Hispanic Heritage Month
   b. Dean’s Lecture Series: Wendy Chung, M.D., Ph.D., Kennedy Family Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Columbia University, “Genomic medicine: disparities and opportunities to improve health equity” September 20, 2022 4:00 p.m., MSB 3.001
   c. UTHealth Houston Office of Diversity and Inclusion speaker series: “Being a nurse advocate for your immigrant and refugee patients” Date: Thursday, Sept. 22, noon
      Speaker: Mary Ellen Biggerstaff, DNP, FNP, MPH & Adolfo G. Cuevas, PhD
   d. The Women Faculty Forum: Negotiation Workshop by Dr. Anees Chagpar, Professor of Surgery at Yale School of Medicine. Friday, September 30th, 2022, 4:00 PM

8. Adjournment: 5:01pm

   Next meeting: Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder – Chair
Dr. Summer Ott – Chair-Elect
Dr. Simbo Chiadika – Secretary
Kathryn Leal, MS, CGC – Secretary-Elect
Dr. Nahid Rianon – 2021-2022 Past-Chair

https://med.uth.edu/faculty-senate/