UTHealth McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate
Minutes
Thursday, April 20, 2023 | 4:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order: 4:31 pm

2. Housekeeping

3. Approval of Minutes - March 2023

4. Reports
   a. Faculty Affairs Update – Dr. Kevin Morano, Senior Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs
      - Faculty affairs: We have 101 promotions – 17 tenure
      - Legislature:
        a) Financial -
           - House and Senate have tentatively approved $17 Million for the mission-specific
             formula for the University as part of the incentive program for successfully
             growing our research portfolio by certain tiers in the past couple of years. Plan is
             to channel the funds back into research. This is the highest payout among all
             health-related institutions (HRIs) in the UT System
           - Texas Epidemic Public Health Institute (TEPHI): $40 million approved in
             Senate, awaiting confirmation in the House.
           - All payers claim database – through the UT School of Public Health, allows
             compilation of insurance information and medical records; a great source for
             research
           - Wishlist funding: awaiting response of some funding for new School of
             Behavioral Health sciences

   b) Senate Bill 18: relates to the debate about future granting of Tenure at public institutions
      in Texas. This would eliminate the ability of public institutions and HRIs to award tenure to
      newly hired and non-tenured faculty. It does not apply to already tenured faculty. Likely to
      pass in the Senate, unclear if enough votes in the House.

   c) Senate Bill 17: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
      - DEI bill: ongoing debates; spear headed by Senator Brandon Creighton – passed
        on party lines in the Senate, the House will discuss it soon. Some parts will be a
        “must pass” bill to the Governor’s desk.
      - The bill consists of the elimination of DEI offices and administration positions,
        elimination of DEI statements and consideration in hiring. It will not affect
        teaching, research, student organizations, invited speakers, all overall student-
        success initiatives. Student admissions not included (despite ongoing lawsuits).
      - New amendment: if passed, State can sue accreditation institutions that penalize
        academic institutions for following the new Texas law.
      - UT Health Houston is not making a statement or making changes at this time but
        continues pursuit of excellence and pursuit of equity in all our processes.
Questions:
- about effects on the tenure applications next year at UT Health – it depends on whether or not the law is passed. Our faculty are 25% tenured or tenure track. Tenure funding is not the largest proportion of faculty funding
- January 1st, 2024 – is the currently proposed deadline for tenure status.

b. Dr. Jagat Narula, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer
Introduction. Dr Narula is a world-renowned physician-scientist and leader in academic medicine. His goals are to work with the Deans of all 6 schools to advance our academic and research initiatives.
- President-elect of the World Heart Federation: willing to bring in speakers as requested

c. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Summer Ott, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect
- Dr. Lisa D. Cain – Introduction of Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development
- Student Inter-Council: 2 representatives: Kate Wall – President & Jayanta Mondal – Vice President. Goal to bridge the gap between the different schools.
- HOOP policy 192: proposal to revise titles for non-tenure track based on book keeping related needs. Proposed: “Associate Professor, Non-Tenured Research”.
- IFC motioned to submit recommendation for other verbiage rather than draw attention to the lack of tenure

d. Diversity and Inclusion Standing Committee annual report – Dr. Hashim Zaidi; Diversity and Inclusion and Dr. Asia McCleady Gaddy Standing Committee, Chairs
- Winners of the McGovern Faculty Diversity Equity and Inclusion Award: Dr. Keisha Ray - Assistant Professor & Medical Humanities director (Research in social, political and cultural determinants for black health) and Dr. Anjail Sharrief – Associate Professor in Neurology, Director of Stroke Prevention and Stroke Transitions program (Health disparities in stroke survivors – impacting stroke care in Houston)
- Multiple speakers invited – encouragement to engage to increase knowledge about why we care about DEI
- Black History month fair – 2/28/2023 … was well attended, there were opportunities to learn about black culture in Houston
- Women’s History Month – in March. Worked with student organizations to compile quotes from famous women in history
- Coming up – PRIDE in June – intent to participate in the parade this year. Employee resource group “PRIDE” planning the parade and events.
- Pending Texas Legislation – bill would ban diversity programs in public universities. Decision made to put a “pause” on the faculty climate survey. Awaiting finalization of the legislation by the end of May.

5. Old Business

a. Committee on Committees – Dr. Nahid Rianon, Chair Committee on Committees
   - 9 Nominees announced – there will be a ballot sent out shortly. There are 3 openings
b. Interfaculty Council (IFC) Election - 2 open positions: 6 candidates – photos, titles and biographies will be sent out.
Interfaculty council leadership development survey:  https://www.uth.edu/ifc/

c. In June, there will be nominees request for Faculty Senate Chair-elect and Secretary positions. We alternate Clinical and Research faculty, this year will be a research focused Chair-elect position.

6. Announcements

McGovern Medical School Summer Research Program - Mary E. Kollmer Horton, MPH, MA, PhD Director, Medical Student Research Office

Summer Research program at McGovern Medical School Applications will be opening soon – 10 weeks research program for medical students between 1st and 2nd year. Dates: May 2 – July 28, also adding research skills component

In August – Will provide a deeper overview of the medical student research office and activities in August

McGovern Medical School Class of 2023 commencement ceremony Friday, April 28, 2023 noon NRG arena. Livestream Link: nrgpark.conventus.live


Cheves Smythe Distinguished Lecture in Education and Geriatric Medicine. *Improving Care Delivery and Outcomes of Older Patients with Advanced Cancer*, Supriya Mohile, MD, MS, Professor, Dept of Medicine, Surgery, Hematology/Oncology Vice Chair for Academic Affairs, University of Rochester Medical Center, Thursday, May 18, 2023 12:00 P.M. MSB 3.001

7. Adjournment: 5:35pm

Next meeting: Thursday, May 18, 2023 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/