McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Faculty Senate

Thursday October 19, 2023 l 4:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31pm with a quorum of members present.

1. Housekeeping

Attendance rules (attend a minimum of 60% of the monthly meetings).

It is important for online meetings that dial-in attendees email Valerie Guerrero with their call-in number so that each caller can be properly identified.

Please remain muted unless speaking and the chat will be monitored regularly for questions.

1. Approval of Minutes (September 2023)

There were no corrections to the minutes from the September 2023 meeting; the minutes were accepted to the final record as written.

1. Reports

A. Faculty Affairs Update – Dr. Nahid Rianon, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

* Mentoring and Promotion Program (MAPP) is back this year. If junior faculty are interested, please register by November 3, 2023 at the following link:

<https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0jnJqVCTbLZVHpQ>

MAPP aims to start meetings in November, with some in-person as well as online options. There is section in the linked form regarding availability

* New faculty orientation is on November 2, 2023

It is open to faculty who joined after 9/1/22

* Associate Dean for Faulty Affairs, Dr. Rianon, welcomed any ideas to increase well-being for faculty

[Nahid.J.Rianon@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Nahid.J.Rianon@uth.tmc.edu)

B. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Erin Fox, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect

* Dr. Cain announced that the Faculty Development Calendar should be available October 20, 2023.

A faculty collaboration site is also coming soon

* One vacant MMS position is open on Faculty Tribunal Panel

Requirements are described in HOOP 133 and the position is a 3-year term

Applicants need to be an Associate Professor or Professor with tenure.

Contact Erin Fox with personal or faculty nominations: <Erin.E.Fox@uth.tmc.edu>

* Updates on SB 17/18 and implications on academic freedom- had 3 guest speakers
* Discussed SB 17 guidance document that is public

<https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/default/files/documents/publication/2023/sb17-guidance/ut-system-sb-17-guidance-9-2.pdf>

* Discussed SB18 and its application to tenure concerns

Still waiting on UT guidance, but bill was largely based on UT System tenure rules

Email Meredith Mills with questions: [Meredith.Mills@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Meredith.Mills@uth.tmc.edu)

1. New Business
2. Cyber Security Awareness-Ryan Awar, MBA, Manager, IT Security; Richard Anselme, Senior Manager, IT Security and Mary Dickerson, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Security Officer

* October is Cyber Security month
* Home router is one of most vulnerable access points in our homes

Any intruder can get access to your computer, TV, security system, lights, appliances and anything with smart system

Important to change default password from original company settings

Internet service provider does not routinely tell you to update your router, but it is good practice to update every several years to upgrade security as well as get better protection and speed

* Any internet connected device requires updates and introduces security risks

Be mindful when purchasing, and consider longevity of item

For larger purchases, like a smart TV, you can use a Roku or a fire stick when TV no longer gets updates. You can also consider buying new smart lights or small appliances every few years so they are the most updated security software version.

* Cell phones can be an area of major security risk, as an intruder can access everything accessed on phone.

Even if things are not accessed via phone, like a bank account, email can be and the phone may be used as a Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) which the intruder would have access to.

Many cell phones update all the time, and may only be vulnerable if updates are no longer supported.

Consider a new phone when updates are unavailable and always accept updates. It is best to protect your resource!

Questions from Senators:

* Is 5G for devices better? Newer technologies do have more security but it does introduce additional risk as 5G networks are untested.
* Should we be worried about hotel Wi-Fi security when traveling? Any open Wi-Fi like stadiums, etc. is a risk and anyone who wants to do harm could do it. They can impersonate Wi-Fi and they can see all key strokes. Open networks are not encrypted so anything can be read. The best practice is a browser with built in VPNs you can purchase for security, e.g., Opera. This will encrypt all data. You can also use a cell phone hotspot, to avoid unknown Wi-Fi.
* Issues with Apple devices over Windows/Google? The Cloud holding large aggregate data could pose a risk. It is best to always update and be cyber smart.
* Email any questions to <Its@uth.tmc.edu>

1. “Many Faces, One Voice”-Dr. Bethany Williams, Chair, Interfaculty Council (IFC),

UTHealth Houston & Associate Professor, Department of Neurology

* What is IFC? A group that represents the interests of the faculty at large across all schools
* Each year, the IFC Chair focuses on one theme.

Current theme is “many faces, one voice” based on the UTHealth Houston campaign across Houston, highlighting differences as strengths and unifying voices

* UT System, as well as IFC, created UT white paper on Shared Governance

Concept of collegial, cooperative and trust-based organizational leadership that enables meaningful combined participation by administration and faculty in the management of an institution’s operations.

* UT System Rule 40101- gives each UT System school a mandate to involve faculty in governance of the organization and formulation of policy.

Each institution can differ in how that is approached; no other UT System school has an IFC.

* IFC includes faculty, Ex-Officio members, and the IFC chair and secretary. There is also a University Classified Staff Council and Student InterCouncil.
* Established in 1981

HOOP Policy 41- solidified faculty government and gives the charges for UTHealth Houston IFC

Goal to advise the University President on three missions, and formed committees on all three specific missions:

1. Governance and academic affairs committee- GAA

2. Faculty status, rights, and responsibilities committee- FSRR

3. Administrative affairs committee- AA

* Work with Faculty Advisory Council- FAC

This includes members from all UT System institutions who review items of concern for UT System at large

Responds to issues at the request of Board of Regents, Chancellor, UT System Administration and/or UTSFAC membership

The FAC will bring issues directly to UT System Executive Officers

FAC charged with identifying issues, responding to issues, conducting fact finding and dissemination of information to all UT System institutions.

* Primary charges of FAC for 2023-2024:

Governance Committee- Shared governance

Health Affairs- Faculty wellness and burnout

Academic Affairs and Faculty Quality- SB17/18 implementation

Research- Postdoctoral fellowship shortage and compliance with SB17/18

* IFC charges for 2023-2024:

GAA Charge- Identify barriers to full and active participation of faculty in governance as well as potential remedies.

FSRR Charge- Assess the pathways and institutional resources available to support the pursuit of tenure for faculty with primary clinical and educational responsibilities, impediments to increasing number of tenured faculty and recommendations to overcome barriers in obtaining tenure.

AA Charge- Assess the impact of recent Texas legislative actions, such as SB18, on faculty hiring and retention at UTHealth Houston. Additionally, identify ways in which faculty interests, like promotion, are represented in decision making policies and comply with newly enacted laws.

1. Announcements
2. Breast Cancer Awareness, Cyber Security Awareness, and Domestic Violence Awareness Month
3. UTHealth Houston 2023 State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) <https://go.uth.edu/secc>
4. Friday, Nov 10, The 14th Annual Yatsu Day Symposium- Free, interactive event geared toward health care professionals and staff interested in learning about brain health and stroke prevention. [https://files.constantcontact.com/a8a433b2701/c504a1fe-7bfe-4245-a801 7551f3f77582.pdf](https://files.constantcontact.com/a8a433b2701/c504a1fe-7bfe-4245-a801%207551f3f77582.pdf)
5. Next month (November 2023) Dr. Martin Citardi, Vice Dean for Clinical Technology, will be presenting and taking questions regarding HOOP 227- Charge Capture. An email will be sent ahead of the next faculty senate meeting to solicit questions for Dr. Citardi to address during his presentation.
6. No meeting currently planned for December 2023 and one month in the Summer of 2024

7. Adjournment at 5:32 pm

Next Meeting: November 16, 2023 at 4:30 pm

Dr. Summer Ott- Chair

Dr. Erin Fox-Chair-Elect

Kathryn Leal, MS, CGC- Secretary

Dr. Matthew Baker-Secretary-Elect

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder- Past Chair 2022-2023