**McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Faculty Senate**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm with a quorum of members present.

**2. Housekeeping**

a. Review of Faculty Senate rules and responsibilities. Attendance rules (attend a minimum of 60% of the monthly meetings) were reviewed. Dial-in attendees must email Valerie Guerrero with their call-in number for proper identification. If you anticipate an absence, reach out to Valerie Guerrero to excuse it. Please remain muted unless speaking, and the chat will be monitored for questions.

b. Brief Overview of Standing Committees. A list of standing committees at MMS can be found at <https://med.uth.edu/administration/organizations-committees/standing-committees/> Any faculty can volunteer for these committees and selection takes place in the Spring/Summer of each year. The compensation committee will meet December 6 to discuss a survey about how departments handle compensation with regards to equity. Any questions about compensation for a future meeting should be emailed to Dr. Fox.

**3. Approval of Minutes – September 2024**

Approved at 4:36pm. No objections

**4. New Business**

a. Direct Distribution of Faculty Senate Materials to all MMS faculty. The Office of Faculty Affairs will begin sending meeting material to all faculty rather than distribution through Senators. There were no objections to this action.

b. Update to GME Values and Statement of Institutional Commitment. Dr. Pamela Promecene, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education and Chair, GME Committee. ACGME is the main accreditation agency. Accreditation requirements were revised in 2021 and enacted in 2022. The statement of institutional commitment (mission and core values) was brought up to current institutional and ACGME requirements, including adding signature lines. No objections were noted to Dr. Fox signing the new statement as the Chair of the Faculty Senate

c. Increasing Faculty Collaboration at UTHealth Houston. Dr. Lisa Cain, Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs and Development, talked about faculty initiatives to increase interactions across all faculty. Faculty Affairs has a new calendar and database to increase collaborations across UTHealth Houston. Activities on the calendar are shared among and across all schools. Dr. Cain hopes to have the calendar fully populated in the next month or two. Contact Lauren Moran to add events. Dr. Cain also talked about a searchable database of faculty activities and a collaboration site to advertise projects looking for collaborators. These sites can be found from a link on Faculty Affairs and Development <https://apps.uth.edu/fdcc/>. Currently, only about 80-100 of the 2000+ faculty members at UTHealth Houston are using the new sites and she encourages all faculty to participate.

Dr. Cain also mentioned the possibility for future Departmental Chair training sessions in 1-2 years and may expand to include PIs.

d. UTHealth Houston update. Dr. Kevin Morano, Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs, spoke about 2 items: the upcoming orientation for new faculty at McGovern Medical School and Dr. Colasurdo’s plan to resign as president and return to practice. Dr. Colasurdo has been president for 12 years and is leaving the University in a good place for the next president to build on. The clinical practice plan is strong, the faculty has doubled, and revenue is up to $1.7-1.8B/year. Research brought in $400M in awards last year and we hope to hit $420-425M this year. Dr. Colasurdo will return to Pediatrics, where he has maintained his clinical practice. UT System will engage a search firm and will compile a search committee; the committee will likely include: 1 regent, 1 president, the executive vice chancellor, 3 faculty members chosen by faculty governance, 1 Dean, 1 student chosen by student governance, president of the alumni association, 1 non-faculty (classified staff) and 2 representatives from external constituencies (development board). UTMB went through a similar search for a president in 2022 and the timeline is expected to be similar (UTMB search started in 9/22 and was completed in 4/23). The hope is to have the committee empaneled by Thanksgiving. This is an open search and there does not appear to be any preordained internal candidate. Dr. Colasurdo will stay on until a new successor arrives.

**5. Announcements**

a. New faculty orientation October 30, 2024, 7:30-9:15 am via Teams. Dr. Cain mentioned she is talking to HR about carving out more time for faculty specific new faculty orientation at the university level.

b. Machine Learning and Computation in Structural Biology, October 25, 2024 at the Rice BRC. https://arc2024.blogs.rice.edu/

c. Dr. Ross Shegog is the IFC Chair. Dr. Kurt Kasper is the new IFC Chair-Elect. Dr. Bethany Williams will continue to serve as IFC Past Chair and Chair-Elect for the UT System Faculty Advisory Council. https://inside.uth.edu/inside/story.htm?id=d8ba2066-ac16-462c-98e2-e6f50d4ca1d5

d. Geriatric Trauma Symposium 11/15/2024 8 am-5pm at the Cooley Center: https://www.eeds.com/portal\_live\_events.aspx?ConferenceID=717336

e. Open house for the MMS Academy of Master Educators, 10/31/2024 12-1pm in MSB B.610 or via Teams: https://med.uth.edu/oep/academy-of-master-educators-2/membership/

**6. Adjournment time: 5:21 pm**

Next meeting: November 21, 2024 at 4:30 PM