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

**Thursday, February 20, 2024 at 4:30 PM**

**Zoom Meeting**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Housekeeping**

Dr. Fox reviewed the 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.

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

Approved at 4:32pm. No objections

**4. Reports**

a. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Barbara Orlando, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect gave an update of the January IFC meeting. The main focus of the meeting was the state of UTHealth Houston, as well as Dr. Colasurdo shared his decision to step down as President. The general consensus was that all of the schools are doing well, with research funding approaching $400,000,000 this year and $3,000,000,000 in group practice revenue. After the name change, the graduate school jumped up 20 to #26 (from #57) in the rankings. On the clinical side the agreement Harris Health and Memorial Hermann has been extended to 2039. Dr. Orlando also discussed the new IFC subcommittees: Wellness redux, IFC identity reboot, and Faculty thrival guide.

**5. New Business**

a. Nathan Carlin, Director of McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics, presented an update on the McGovern Center for Humanities and Ethics. This is the 20th anniversary of the center, which supports the humanistic side of medicine. There are 11 programs in the center, 5 of which are new since 2021. Dr. Carlin also mentioned a writing fellowship and a new workforce training program. Dr. Carlin stressed that anyone can be involved with McGovern Center and that they will be hosting a special anniversary event on April 24 at 6 pm in the newly renovated 5th floor gallery.

b. John Hancock, Executive Dean, MMS and Senior VP of Research Strategy and Innovation, gave an update on McGovern Medical School. Dr. Hancock discussed recent leadership changes, including the search for a new Biochemistry chair next year. There is currently an open search for the Chair of Emergency Medicine, Chair of Dermatology, Director of Pediatric Cardiology, Vice Chair of Research in the Department of Pediatrics and Ophthalmology. Dr Hancock announced that Dr. Love is the ad interim UTHealth Houston president. Dr. Hancock also spoke about research funding and the potential of NIH indirect costs (IDC) potentially being capped at 15%; it is currently 56%. There was an injunction to stop the rate reduction, but there are ongoing legal proceedings, in addition to negotiations for fair IDC rate, running in parallel. Dr. Hancock thinks the new IDC rates will be well short of 56% but higher than 15%. MMS and UTHealth Houston are currently running budget scenarios with various levels of predicted IDC. Dr. Hancock also mentioned that they are waiting for the new Blue Ridge rankings but believes MMS will be in the top 50. Dr. Hancock discussed new programs and facilities at MMS.

c. John Riggs, Assistant Dean for Professionalism, MMS, gave an overview of the MMS Office of Professionalism. The office was started in April 2020 to address who we are as physicians and faculty, what we value, and the way we think, act, feel and socialize. He also mentioned that well-being 1.0 was to have a work/life balance, while well-being 2.0 promotes the integration of boundaries and values, and finds ways for fulfillment. Dr. Riggs talked about establishing relationships that promote professionalism, as well as faculty mentorship and development programs. The efforts from the Office of Professionalism have seen rapid improvements in 3rd year medical students’ learning experience and a reduction in mistreatment complaints.

**6. Announcements**

a. 2025 Houston Orthopedic Trauma Symposium: Current Controversies, February 21st 8am-5:30pm at Hotel Zaza, Memorial City. Registration: https://med.uth.edu/ortho/education-training/trauma-symposium/

b. Grants 201: PI Operations and Leadership Training Program. In person sessions over 6-week period. Application Deadline: 2/25/2025 REGISTRATION LINK:

https://uthealth.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=/TqY2YDF1mUECHrPeIW9eQ%3D%3D

c. TRC4 letter of intent due March 1 (https://trc4.org). Please also send LOIs to [charles.s.cox@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:charles.s.cox@uth.tmc.edu) ahead of the deadline for UTHealth Houston TRC4 Advisory Committee for planning purposes

d. Joint Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Conference on March 1 at the Cooley Center. Registration: https://med.uth.edu/blog/2025/01/30/joint-psychiatry-conference-set-for-march-1/

**7. Adjournment time: 5:30 pm**

Next meeting: March 20, 2025 at 4:30 PM