LSUHSC SOM Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

Meeting held Thursday, September 1, 2016

**Opening:** P. Winsauer called the regular meeting of the LSUHSC SOM faculty to order at 4:06 p.m. in Room 7 on the 6th floor of the Lions Building.

**Present:** Ali, M; Campeau, L; De Silva, T; Delacroix, S; Engel, L; Foster, T; Gardner, J; Gidday, J; Greiffenstein, P; Happel, K; Hetzler, L; Kamboj, S; Kapusta, D; Kelly, B; Lee, O; Lentz, J; Levitzky, M; McGoey, R; Mooney, J; Neumann, D; Prasad, P; Spieler, B; Taylor, C, Winsauer, P

**Absent:** Callahan, K; Guillory, S; Holman, S; Houser, M; Hunt, J; Oge, L; Polite, F; Surcouf, J

**Proxies:** Ali, M for Holman, S; Campeau, L for Crabtree, J; Foster, T for Sturtevant, J; Lee, O for Sherman, W

1. **Approval of Minutes from the August:**  M. Levitzky put forth a motion to approve the minutes for the August meeting, and this was seconded by T. Foster. Motion was approved unanimously.
2. **Invited guest - Dr. Steve Nelson**, Dean of the SOM. The following items were discussed:
   1. Financial state with LSUHSC-Shreveport campus –
      1. Dr. Nelson stated that he was keeping a close eye on the financial situation of the LSUHSC-Shreveport campus, and shared the press release from earlier in the day, “LSU’s Shreveport medical school on life support” in USA Today Network.
   2. Vision/plan for OMERAD (and the Academy) following Sheila Chauvin’s retirement – 
      1. Dr. Nelson reported that a meeting is scheduled next week with Dr. Chauvin to discuss ideas about how the Academy can function more within the SOM. Topics for discussion include helping our students to become better learners, lifelong learners, helping teachers become better teachers, and how to expand the grants program.
      2. He reiterated his support for the Academy stating that it is a good thing in that it recognizes scholarships, honoring and promoting teachers and students.
      3. He also welcomes ideas from faculty and students about how to improve.
   3. Vision/plan for Office of Faculty and Institutional Affairs following Dr. Letourneau’s retirement, and the search process for a replacement –
      1. Dr. Nelson reported that 8 individuals have applied, and 5 were invited to interview (3 internal, 2 external). He stated that they are all strong candidates with different strengths. Waiting for evaluations.
      2. He stated that this office has many different facets and works closely with his office and with him. He said he’s looking for an experienced candidate, who can potentially succeed in a future leadership role.
      3. First priorities for this office will be LCME reaccreditation, and a focus on improvements at SOM.
      4. Expects about 20% of the time of the new person will be spent on clinical or research activities to maintain contact with faculty.
      5. Faculty Assembly Delegates expressed an interest in having more representation during the interview process and time to meet with each candidate independently.
   4. Progress on plans for the Office of Student Affairs –
      1. Dr. Nelson reiterated his commitment to strengthen the office, including more services for students and hiring an Assistant Dean for Student Research.
      2. He envisions a 1-stop shop to get all students needs addressed.
   5. Impact of a mid-year budget cut –
      1. Dr. Nelson anticipates a mid-year budget shortfall, but no cut to LSUHSC.
      2. He stated that SOM finances are in good shape, and received $14M in state funds this year. However, he is watching the situation in Shreveport closely for unexpected indirect effects.
      3. Dr. Nelson reported that the SOM is conducting a cost analysis to determine the feasibility of giving equity raises to faculty and staff, and is hoping to have estimates and recommendations by the end of September.
      4. In the meantime, he will continue to support initiatives that he believes improve morale and help to offset the lack of raises, including the research incentive program and alumni awards.
   6. Update on relations with our clinical partners –
      1. Dr. Nelson is looking into developing programs to stabilize the long-term partnership with Children’s Hospital in New Orleans.
      2. Currently, all UMC Service Line Directors are LSUHSC faculty; newest Director is Head of Trauma.
      3. There are always challenges when hiring faculty for OLOL b/c they compete w/ the physicians directly employed by OLOL.
      4. Going forward, we may invest more in the infrastructure of Lafayette General.
   7. Updates/impressions on new curricular changes –
      1. Dr. Nelson stated that he’s received positive responses about the new curriculum from students and faculty. He thinks we are going in the right direction, through greater integration of basic and clinical faculty.
      2. Dr. Nelson stated that support for teaching activities will be contingent upon fulfilling teaching responsibilities.
      3. With regard to outcomes, Dr. Nelson reported that no students failed the first block. Step 1 scores have not been reported yet.
   8. Anticipated issues with LCME reaccreditation –
      1. Dr. Nelson thinks we’re in good shape with regard to LCME, their biggest concern is likely to center on our relationships with the partners. He indicated that he’d like to hire a consultant to work with Dr. DiCarlo to prepare paperwork and arrange another mock visit.
   9. Updates on faculty interests in a capital outlay committee –
      1. Dr. Nelson agrees with faculty in the development of a capital outlay committee with representation from faculty and students. He stated that he will continue to talk with Dr. Hollier about the issue of representation.
   10. Progress regarding Faculty Forward –
       1. Dr. Nelson reported that efforts to address the issues raised by Faculty Forward are underway and he has begun meeting with Departments to discuss those efforts.
   11. Mid-year evaluation and outcomes from our 5-year SOM Strategic Plan
       1. Dr. Nelson commented that since the Faculty generated the 2014-19 SOM Strategic Plan they are responsible for evaluating outcomes.
   12. Other updates/announcements from the Dean’s office –
       1. Biomedical collaborative research program workshop to be held 9/8.
       2. Dr. Nelson increased funding for clinical grants through the Research Enhancement Program. So far, one application has been received. All funding opportunities through the Dean’s office are on the SOM website.
       3. Working on LaCats renewal.
       4. Dr. Nelson is working on the follow-up after Francis Collins’s visit. He is currently talking with Dr. Collins, Sen. Cassidy, DHH, and Pfizer about developing a Center for Health Disparities and Precision Medicine. The idea is to develop umbrella programs to help with disparities in relation to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, etc. He is reaching out to faculty about participation.
       5. Dr. Nelson is supportive of developing a non-tenure educator track.
       6. Dr. Nelson is supportive of giving clinical faculty credit for working on state holidays, an issue raised by the Faculty Senate.
       7. With regard to the recent housekeeping issues, Dr. Nelson recommended sending him an email on behalf of a department instead of submitting a work-order.
       8. Dr. Nelson is working on several issues associated with the new Student Memorial outside of Lion’s Eye.
3. **Reports** – tabled.
4. **Old Business** – tabled.
5. **New Business**
   1. Ballot was conducted to elect the 2016-17 Basic Science Faculty Assembly Senator, winner Judy Crabtree.

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn by P. Winsauer, seconded by M. Levitzky; meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Lentz.