



School of Medicine

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly

Minutes

Thursday, May 1, 2025

4:00pm-5:00pm

Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: A. Abreo, S. Alahari, G. Athas, A. Augustus-Wallace, J. Berthelot, J. Calandria, M. Cook (proxy is J. Malsbury), J. D'Souza, J. Gardner, M. Harrington, J. Hart (proxy for M. Korah-Sedgwick), S. Holman, S. Kamboj (proxy for M. Reinoso), R. Kline, C. Leblanc, N. Loganantharaj, L. Marrero, E. McDonough, B. McGee, L. Pelaez, P. Prasad, S. Primeaux (proxy for J. Cameron), R. Siggins, L. Simon-Peter, A. Smith, L. Tanner-Sanders, V. Vaitaitis (proxy for M. Clement), E. Wisner, R. Zambrano

Absent: A. Bennett, T. Castellano, T. Reske, J. Schoen, C. Taylor

Welcome and call to order at 4:01pm by President Gardner

Guest: Dr. Richard DiCarlo, Dean, School of Medicine

- a. Do you anticipate problems with the state hiring freeze, limiting our ability to recruit faculty? This hiring freeze was put in place with the understanding that there would be a process for exceptions but have not been informed of the process. SOM was asked to provide a list of potential positions that we would want/need to hire. This list was submitted. Some hires were completed before the hiring freeze.
- b. Updates on LCME Mock Visit. Visit was very positive, well-done, and very thorough. We were given a lot of good advice, where can clean up and clarify. Dr. English has worked very hard to get it to an organized place, early in the process. Don't foresee any major problems.
- c. Updating our Learning Management System: Ben Lousteau & Ken Boe are considering both Canvas and Moodle. There is a tremendous amount of content and utilization of Moodle over the years. For example, the curriculum database interfaces with Moodle to extract information, so they can query and extract information for their reports. Suggested that each school is represented in the discussion. (Robin English, Brenda Gale, and course coordinators). Every school is putting together a group to discuss. Moodle is still on BR Campus, there could be problems if there are different platforms across campuses.
- d. Dr. Demetrius Porche is the new VCAA. SACS accreditation went well. The Office of Research Services is in a state of rebuilding. ORS and IRB are priorities. There is a backlog of work for IRB. Looking to add people to the IRB, Jessica Riveria will have a lot of "effort" for the IRB.
- e. Process for faculty evaluation: What is role of faculty evaluations moving forward? HR would like a format and rating scale that is like the one for staff. The "HR" form is meant for everyone and is related to merit increases. It wasn't meant to be the only evaluation that faculty receive.

Approval of the March meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Dr. Kamboj, Second by Dr. Alahari, none opposed. Meeting minutes are posted on SOM Faculty Assembly Webpage.

https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/faculty_assembly/FA%20Minutes%204-3-25_approved.pdf

Reports:

1. **Executive Committee** (Gardner): No meeting due to General Faculty Meeting
2. **Administrative Council** (Augustus-Wallace): Meeting scheduled later in May
3. **Faculty Senate** (Augustus-Wallace): Alicia Edwards (Asst VC Community Engagement) discussed the Staff Senate, in which officers were elected, bylaws/constitution were written and voted on. Patricia Oates (SOM Faculty Affairs Administrator) was elected as President. The term "Health Equity" is an appropriate term as determined by LSUHSC-NO legal counsel. This office is still handling discrimination cases. LA House Bill 421 to move to continue the elimination of DEI, we are compliant. Ken Boe (IT) discussed Moodle support. The LSU-BR Moodle group is ready to start scheduling meetings, seeking input from faculty on pain points. One Senator will serve as a point of contact for Moodle. There is an ongoing discussion on Learning Management Systems. LSU-BR will remain with Moodle, LSUHSC- NO can switch to Canvas, ongoing discussions. IT is still researching Graphpad Prism and working with VCAF for funding. PM-23, instruction track, moved forward, though no details provided. Faculty Handbook has been published and approved by Council of Deans, though still not approved by Senate. Food drive with Hunger Free Campus Initiative (already passed), IRB reconstruction: Jessica Riveria is chair, soliciting for additional members. SACS update: 1 recommendation, overall expected score of 4 out of 5.

Old Business:

- a. GraphPad Prism license updates: in progress, discussion with Ken Boe (IT)
- b. FA elections reminder (Nomination email sent on 4/29, due 5/15).
- c. Delegates whose terms are ending have been emailed.

Call for New Business:

- a. The next FA President is Maria Reinoso. Elections will be held in August for President-Elect, must be a Basic Science Faculty Member. Also up for election are Secretary, Basic Science Rep to Administrative Council (Currently Allison Augustus-Wallace), and Clinical Faculty Rep to Administrative Council (Currently Laura Pelaez).
- b. No delegates shall hold more than one office at a time, and no delegate shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in same office. FA will need new Administrative Council members.
- c. We will have one opening for Faculty Senate to replace Sanjay Kamboj, need clinical faculty. Faculty Senate Reps can only serve 2 consecutive terms.
- d. Faculty Senate is working to develop an AI policy. Plan to discuss with Faculty Assemblies from each school.

Adjourn—Motion by Dr. Sanjay Kamboj, 4:47pm.