



School of Medicine Faculty Assembly
Minutes
Thursday, May 7th, 2026
4:00pm-5:00pm
Zoom Meeting

In Attendance (Assemblypersons): A. Abreo, M.A. Ali, G. Athas, A. Augustus-Wallace, J. Calandria, J. Cameron, , J. Crabtree, J. D'Souza, L. Davis, J. Gardner, S. Garner, M. Harrington, J. Hart, S. Kamboj, M. Korah-Sedgwick, C. Leblanc, N. Loganantharaj, L. Marrero, L. McGee, J. Patrick, L. Pelaez, P. Prasad, S. Primeaux, M. Reinoso, T. Reske, J. Schoen, L. Simon Peter, L. Tanner-Sanders, A. Smith, C. Taylor, V. Vaitaitis, A. Wolfe, E. Wisner, R. Zambrano

Absent: A. Bennett, J. Bertholot, T. Castellelano, J. Cook

Faculty Attendee: S. Alahari

Proxy: C. LeBlanc for J. D'Souza

Welcome and call to order at 4:00pm by President, Dr. Maria Reinoso

Guest Speakers: Guest Speaker: Dr. Lucio Miele, MD, PhD, Director, LSU-LCMC Health Cancer Center. Topic: NCI Designation: The NCI Designation is earned via submission and awarding of a competitively awarded, renewable, 5-yr, **P30** Grant from NCI; which recognizes: **1)** cancer research; **2)** patient care; **3)** training; and **4)** community engagement. Applications are peer-reviewed by non-NCI panels consisting of other Cancer Center Directors and Leaders (e.g., Associate Directors). **Final decisions** are made by the NCI, Office of Cancer Centers, based on review scores and national priorities. There are **three (3) types of Cancer Centers**: **1)** Basic Cancer Center; **2)** Clinical Cancer Center; **3)** Comprehensive Cancer Center (***reference slide***). There are **six (6) Essential Characteristics**: **1)** Physical Space; **2)** Organizational Capabilities; **3)** Transdisciplinary Collaboration and Coordination; **4)** Cancer Focus; **5)** Institutional Commitment; and **6)** Center Director.

Overall What's Needed: 1) Research Programs; 2) Clinical Research; 3) Community Outreach & Engagement (***reference slide***). **Recent Progress:** **1)** 17 physicians and researchers recruited to LA; **2)** New Research Space designated at LSUHealth New Orleans; **3)** Construction expanded at UMC; **4)** Developed three strong, funding collaborative research programs: **a)** Cancer Biology; **b)** Population Science and Cancer Control; **c)** Translation & Clinical Research; **5)** Peer-reviewed funding: \$15M (does not include funding from researchers who have recently joined or who will be joining); **6)** Community Outreach & Engagement: Integrating efforts with Louisiana Cancer Prevention & Control Program in the School of Public Health and the Community Outreach Programs at LSU New Orleans and LSU Shreveport. **NCI Designation P30 Submission Timeline for LSUHSC-NO:** Estimate 2029 Infrastructure in place, internal evaluation w/application preparation; with a 2030 application submission. If interested in LSUHSC-NO Cancer Center Membership:

https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/cancer_center/research/become_a_member_page.aspx

Approval of April 2025 Minutes: (Dr. Augustus-Wallace) President Reinoso called for approval.

Moved to be accepted Dr. Cameron, with seconded by Dr. Smith: **Vote:** None opposed. Approval of Minutes: Passed. Meeting minutes were/are posted on SOM Faculty Assembly Webpage. https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/faculty_assembly/FA%20Minutes%206-5-25%20final.pdf

Reports:

a. **Executive Committee** (meeting w/Dr. DiCarlo): **1)** Application process for merged dept. heads have opened and candidates are under review; **2)** Search for Senior Vice-Chancellor, announcement soon, TBA; **3)** NCI Designation-remains top priority; **4)** MEB's 5th floor is officially; floors 6th and 7th floors to be early next year pending federal funding; **5)** CALS to CSRB Walkway: Estimate July 2026 completion; **6)** Recognition of Dr. Steve Nelson was received very well received and was agreed; coordination TBA to ensure Dr. Nelson's specifications.

b. **Administrative Council** (Drs. Allyson Bennett/Jessica Patrick; shared by Dr. Augustus-Wallace): **Dr. Taylor:** **1)** Leadership: Basic Sciences Dept. Heads searches are ongoing ; **2)** P & T: CV Review process has gone well; Memo to be distributed to indicate change in professional tracks, more to be discussed during the Dept. Heads Meetings; current emphasis on those being promoted this cycle; **3)** Annual SOM Committee Membership Surveys-Coming soon; **4)** Leadership Academy: Deadline for applications: Friday, May 8th; **5)** May Faculty Development Opportunities: Located on the agenda; **Dr. English:** **1)** Curriculum Revisions to include the use of ultrasound **2)** House Faculty Recruitment: Please recommend; Incentive-\$1000 Educational Stipend; **Dr. DeSilva:** **1)** Pre-Commencement: Wednesday, May 13th **2)** Commencement: Thursday, May 14th; **Dr. Engel:** **1)** Robert Daniel's Professorship to be held May 22nd **2)** Annual Inst. Report (700 pgs.); ACGME-Continued our accreditation; Largest program in LA; there are a total of 760 programs; LSUHSC-NO SOM is ranked in the top 50; **Dr. DiCarlo:** **1)** CALS to CSRB Walkway: Estimate July 2026 completion; **2)** MEB's 5th floor is officially; floors 6th and 7th floors to be early next year pending federal funding; **3)** XULA & Ochsner COM: Request made of the Founding Dean to cease recruitment of our Basic Science Faculty; per Drs. DiCarlo and English meeting with soon to be med. school, there will be a collaboration between our SOM and their COM to develop their Basic Sciences Curriculum, where our faculty will have the opportunity to work with them and provide instruction at their campus via the PM-11, compensation to come from our SOM; timeline for their school's opening: June 2026-LCME Visit; outcome shared October 2026; if there is a positive LCME report, then the 1st class of 50 students will be welcomed August 2027.

c. **Faculty Senate** (Dr. Cameron): **Provost search:** One named candidate at the moment – Interim provost Troy Blanchard; twenty-seven (27) people of interest; twelve (12) have requests for additional information/qualifications- **MUST** be tenured, full professors with Dean or above experience from a 4-year University; **Post-Tenure:** Baton Rouge is considering a post-tenure review process of tenured faculty; **Fast-Track for MD:** Baton Rouge is considering a fast-track program for qualified LSU students, potential "reserved slots" for Medical School admission (after 3 years of UG school and no requirement for the MCAT); **MOUs:** Review of language & Dr. Springate is leading an effort to create a dual degree program (MD/MBA) program with UNO (to be LSU New Orleans again, July 1st); **LSU Flagship Transformation:** twenty-nine (29) committees have been composed to review policy changes and points of consolidation **Academic Committee** (Cameron is a member) goals: 1) Enhance the student-experience; 2) Leverage of programming across campuses; 3) Protect Program Autonomy; Committees' Deadline to submit recommendations: May 1st; **SACSCOC Accreditation:** Initial documents have been submitted-awaiting response; potential final documents to be submitted in September.

d. **Committee reports**

None

Old Business:

Faculty Assembly Awards: (Dr. Liz Simon Peter)

FA award winners:

- Outstanding service to Institution: Suresh Alhari, PhD
- Outstanding service to Community: Scott Edwards, PhD
- Outstanding Junior Faculty: Shelby MacRae, MD
- Outstanding Mentor: Ludmila Belayev, MD

New Business:

- **Faculty assembly member nominations:** Watch for an email sent from SOMFA@lsuhsc.edu requesting self-nominations for FA delegate positions. You can also submit your nomination here: [SOM Faculty Assembly Nominations – Fill out form](#)

Adjourn: Request to Motion for meeting conclusion by Dr. Reinoso, Motion was first & seconded; and passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.