**School of Medicine Faculty Assembly**

**Minutes**

**October 7, 2021**

Attendance: K. Happel, M. Houser, P. Prasad, R. Zambrano, Z. Ali, A. Creel, J. Hart, S. Kamboj, L. Reilly, N. Nair, E. Wisner, A. Farge, K. Gajewski, C. Leblanc, M. Reinoso, H. Scott, L. Tanner, E. Mathews. S. Alahari, J. Gardner, J. Gidday, A. Augustus-Wallace, J. Cameron, J. Crabtree, C. Taylor, S. Primeaux, J. Simkin, L. Simon Peter, D. Worthylake, S. Edwards, L. Birke (guest), G. Athas (guest), D. Kapusta (guest), R. Maiya (guest), R. Majumder (guest)

Proxies: None

Absent: D. Felipe, R. Gomez, S. Holman, J. Hunt, M. Maness, A. Martin, S. Sarkar, L. Stuke,

Called to order: 1601

1. Approval of August meeting minutes: (motion Sanjay Kamboj, MD, second Stefany Primeaux, Ph.D.)
2. Reports:
   1. **Executive Committee**: Report deferred did not meet
   2. **SOM Administrative Council** (courtesy of Judy Crabtree, Ph.D.)
3. Dr. DiCarlo update:
4. John Stewart (LCMC LSU health Cancer Center Director) introduction: Full time on campus on Monday. Couldn’t attend meeting but will give a presentation on his vision at the November admin council meeting.
5. Leadership Searches:
   1. Dept Head of Surgery – 14 applicants so far, 2 may not meet requirements. Search committee met last week and external ads will stay up for several more weeks since we lost some time with Ida. Prelim interviews expected late October/early November. Faculty should encourage good candidates to apply.
   2. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs – slightly delayed by Ida, but search is now completed. Announcement will be made soon.
   3. Dept head Family Med– Nelson and DiCarlo working with leadership at Kenner to resolve a few issues with residency program there before a final decision will be made on a new Dept Head.
6. Promotion packets are all in and headed to P&T committee – 45 packets for promotion this year
7. COVID guidelines – Updated beginning last week
   1. Domestic travel now allowed. Supervisors to ensure traveler is fully vaccinated.
   2. At beginning of Delta surge, quarantine was required for anyone with significant exposure, but now this has reverted to no quarantine for those fully vaccinated but testing is required.
   3. Still working on surveillance testing for those who are non-vaccinated. Expect weekly testing of non-vaccinated people to start mid of Nov. There will be a site for uploading vaccination status to avoid weekly testing. Challenge is that we still don’t have an accurate idea of the number of unvaccinated people on campus.
   4. There is a weekly email from Leslie Capo with the vaccination clinic schedule for both flu and COVID. COVID vaccination for anyone but Flu vaccine only for LSUHSC faculty/staff/students.
   5. COVID testing being done daily but hours are variable. Appointments can be made via website.
   6. Vaccine requirement – goes into effect in November. Exemptions for medical and religious in progress, online forms are almost ready (by end of week). Requirements for the hospitals are often different than the requirements for LSUHSC. In general, our personnel must adhere to hospital policy.
8. Dr. Lazarus update:
9. White coat ceremonies: First year students: Held on 10/2 as a student-only event but was live-streamed for family and friends from lounge in Superdome. Did not put coats on the students but they received a stethoscope courtesy of the Foundation. Second year students: will be held on Oct 16 (postponed initially due to Ida). Will follow same format as first year students.
10. Scott Embley from CAP talked to all L1 and L2 students yesterday to check in and reiterate what CAP services are available. (Increased stress levels among L1s and L2s).

Dr. Rahn Bailey, Chair of Psychiatry, also discussed keeping resources available (phone hotline, etc) for our students dealing with elevated stress levels from COVID and Ida.

1. Curriculum disruptions from Ida – Changes to minimize stresses to students: grading changes, de-stressed the exams, took out some of the lectures that were not core curriculum. L1s took first exams last Friday L2s last Wednesday. All will finish semester on time. Back in-person for anatomy labs with half of the class at a time.
2. 4th year students all got their ERAS applications in on time. All interviews will be virtual- spaces in library and elsewhere are available for students to use.
3. Dr. Maupin: GME workshop
4. Had a GME workshop, 2nd annual showcase for recruiting students from underrepresented communities. Hosted the last Saturday in Sept, despite Ida. 14 clinical departments participated. Had 150 registrations, 80 attended – some local, some from Puerto Rico, and international institutions. Next year – work in advance to look at how to continue to evolve and expand the reach of this program. Wants to learn more about online resources/presence of the diversity groups within departments.
5. Dr. Tsien – Research Café
6. Presented slides about the Research Café and upcoming schedule of events, all noon-1pm via zoom.
   1. Success with Intramural Funding 10/20/21
   2. Responsible Conduct in Research and DEI in research 11/11/21
   3. Proposal Development Workshop 12/8/21
   4. Specific Aims Workshop 1/12/22
   5. Research Strategy 2/9/22
   6. Biosketch, Budget and Budget Justification 3/9/22
   7. Mock study section 4/13/22
   8. Writing a peer-reviewed manuscript May 2022
7. Dean Nelson is also looking into having a committee or a company to help review grants in detail.
8. Dr. Winsauer
9. Research Enhancement funding – last month the committee reviewed the July grant submissions: 3 clinical applications and 4 basic science applications – 2 applications were recommended for funding.
10. Request from Dr. Winsauer: Faculty: please look at these grants for basic grantsmanship before you sign off on them –issues including figures being too small, references missing, budgets not correct (budgets are including things the mechanisms don’t pay for etc). Attention to detail is important.
11. Dean’s Seminar Oct 20 – Eric Lazartigues – ACE2 receptors in COVID.
12. Dean Nelson
13. Dr. Maupin spoke at White coat ceremony
14. Dr. Nuss appointed head of cancer service line at OLOL
15. Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Research job description is being refined and will be sent to committee members 10/7 for review. Search firm will place ad next week and expect a good slate of candidates in a couple of months. All prior candidates have expressed willingness to reapply. Dean of Grad Studies has been removed and is now its own position that will report to the Chancellor (right now this position is held by Angela Amedee, PhD).
16. Dr. Hollier has committed resources for 2 more positions in clinical trial unit group.
17. Dr. Nelson meets with Governor 10/6/21 about cancer in LA along with other leaders from Ochsner, Tulane, Xavier, etc.
18. Dr. Roig – VA updates
19. Moving off warning status from COVID. Now back up to 100% surgery services.
20. Waiting on national guidance for how to handle medical and religious exemptions from COVID vaccination
21. Dr. McLean - Admissions
22. Admissions committee has completed early admission process, have 23 students
23. Regular admissions process started and first meeting was held. had first meeting.
24. Record number of applicants to SOM again

Advanced rank Appointments:

1. Julie Kaplow, PhD in Department of Psychiatry to Clinical Professor (Gratis)
2. Rajesh Mohandas, MD, MPH, for Associate Professor (Tenure Track) Dept of Medicine.
3. **Faculty Senate**

1. Addressing status of audit and asking for different assemblies to try to get pulse of all assemblies so a plan can be made moving forward about how to handle the audit.

2.Chancellor Hollier will attend the next senate meeting. Questions can be submitted in advanced to one of the senators.

3. Old Business:

1. Historically excluded Faculty and DEI taskforce (courtesy of Allison Augustus-Wallace)
   1. Had to reschedule last meeting
   2. Prior meeting held on 8/16/2021: Jason Gardner and other committee members attended. Discussed 2 items for reducing barriers to increase diversity of faculty; 1) finding greater support for mentoring post-docs and trainees and 2) Offering suggestions for marketing and granting in regard to the main web page.
   3. Action items:
      * To build pipelines for mentoring, recruitment, and retention and looking at funding opportunities available. Also looking at professional portfolio development for post-docs and residents.
      * Looking at items for success and identifying those with respect to:
        + Basic Sciences: Creation of independent funding record to identify graduate students transitioning to next level. Also looking at institutional intentionality to create investments to secure available funding. Dr. Jason Gardner provided information to the group to be distributed to the task force for review. Also looking at partnerships with T-32 programs and looking at feeder institutions and scientific affinity organizations. Speaking with Dr. Patricia Molina as she leads basic sciences in understanding additional mechanisms which could be supportive in this effort.
        + Clinical Sciences: Creating avenue for transparency of salaries. Also to help residents understand supplements to salaries and how to discuss equitable negotiation. Also including RVUs for promotion review and understanding non-direct clinical responsibilities needed for promotion (teaching, research, clinical trials, etc). Speaking with Dr. Cynthia Brown (Dept Head for Internal Medicine) to see which mechanisms exist to support these efforts.

4. Call for New Business

1. LSU Audit
   1. Faculty Senate meeting 10/12 at 3:30 (open to any full-time faculty member to attend; if people are interested, meeting is in-person in lecture hall A at school of nursing building; limited seating due to social distancing; 330 nursing building)
      * Questions need to be submitted to senators or FA President by 10/8 at 3 pm as per requested from Dr. Hollier
   2. Women in Medicine group met and wants to formulate a letter- should there be more than one letter from multiple FAs or just a joint letter? Joint letter seems to be most cohesive but will readdress after 10/12. Letter will be addressed to President Tate regarding what LSUHSC stands for etc.
   3. Extensive discussion was held regarding LSU Internal audit and plan moving forward

5. Adjourn at 1734 (motion Sanjay Kamboj, MD))