

Interfaculty Council Meeting Minutes FY 2020 – September 16, 2020 – Webex

Present: Dr. Elda Ramirez, Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, Dr. Cameron Jeter, Dr. Nicholas R. De Lay, Dr. Kulvinder Bajwa for Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Catherine Ambrose, Dr. Elaheh Ashtari, Dr. Meena Bhattacharjee, Dr. Linh Bui, Dr. Carmen Dessauer, Dr. Rashedah Ekeoduru, Dr. Nahid Rianon, Dr. Bethany Williams, Dr. Licong Cui, Dr. Luca Giancardo, Dr. Kirk Roberts, Dr. Debora Simmons, Dr. Daniel Harrington, Dr. Kurt Kasper, Dr. Dharini van der Hoeven, Dr. Michele White, Dr. Sandra Branson, Dr. Vaunette Fay, Dr. Carole Mackavey, Dr. Seth Stephens, Dr. Craig Hanis, Dr. Ross Shegog, Dr. Michael Swartz, Ms. Ankita Podichetty, and Dr. Pauline Monsegue-Bailey

Absent: Dr. Joseph Alcorn, Dr. Nachum Dafny, and Dr. Cecilia Ganduglia-Cazaban

Ex-Officio Attendees: Dr. Kevin Morano and Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş

Administrative Personnel: Ms. Terrie Schade-Lugo

I. CALL TO ORDER *Dr. Elda Ramirez, IFC Chair FY 2020*
Dr. Elda Ramirez, IFC Chair FY 2020, called the meeting to order at 11:35 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *Dr. Ramirez*
Dr. Ramirez polled the members for any objections or corrections to the minutes for August 19, 2020. Upon motion made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved, as presented.

TRANSITION OF CHAIR *Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer, IFC Chair FY 2021*
Dr. Ramirez passed the gavel to transition the Chair position to Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer as the 2021 IFC Chair. Dr. Champagne-Langabeer introduced herself as IFC Chair for FY 2021 and asked the attendees to introduce themselves and, as a way to get to know each other, to share where they would most like to take a trip -or revisit.

III. NEW BUSINESS *Dr. Champagne-Langabeer*
Dr. Champagne-Langabeer discussed several housekeeping items that require attention at the start of each Fiscal Year, as follows:

IFC Membership Roster:

- Please review your information on the Roster and ensure the information is listed correctly. The Roster information is published on the IFC Webpage (<https://www.uth.edu/ifc/membership.htm>). If any information is incorrect, please email Terrie and check with your department as the White Pages information may also be inaccurate as that is the source for the information on this Roster.

IFC Meeting Dates:

- The list of scheduled meeting dates for FY 2021 is included in your meeting materials packet. We must meet a minimum of nine (9) times each fiscal year. The first three meetings of the IFC are being scheduled as Webex Meetings. Closer to January 2021, we will revisit in-person and Webex options for attendance. The meeting requests have been provided to the membership. Please accept all the meeting requests. If you cannot attend any meeting, utilize your alternate, or find another faculty member to attend in your place. Please alert Terrie so that she may appropriately manage the attendance.

IFC Bylaws:

- Dr. Champagne-Langabeer requested that the attendees review the bylaws provided in the meeting materials packet and pay attention to Article 3, Membership, Section 6: Loss of IFC Appointment, which reads as follows:
"Any member of Interfaculty Council, other than ex officio, who is absent from **three consecutive** or **four total regular/special meetings** during an academic year **shall forfeit their position and be replaced by another representative of the school** using the procedures for filling vacancies in Section 5 of these bylaws. The Secretary of the IFC shall monitor attendance and implement loss of appointment procedures on behalf of the Chair. **A member may select another faculty member to represent him/her at a meeting; however, an alternate representative may be used for no more than three IFC meetings per year.**"

McGovern Medical School and the School of Biomedical Informatics have chosen to have dedicated alternates included on the IFC meeting requests to ensure their calendars are scheduled to attend the IFC meeting(s) to

cover those schools IFC members absences. If you have to be absent, contact the alternates listed on the IFC Membership Roster, and please make sure to email and advise Terrie.

IFC Subcommittees:

- Each Subcommittee charge is outlined on the IFC Subcommittee Information provided in the meeting materials packet and is made a part of these minutes. The Chair discussed each subcommittee charge and answered questions. The membership was advised that a Poll would be circulated for everyone to sign up to participate in one or more subcommittees.

Thomas F. Burks Scholarship for Academic Merit:

The Office of the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer (EVP/CAO) manages university scholarship endowments; the TF Burks Scholarship endowment is one of these endowments. The EVP/CAO's office provides the notice, including guidelines and process information, to the schools. Each school can submit up to two (2) applications by December 1. The IFC/SIC Selection Committee reviews up to 12 (twelve) applications for the award and selects the awardee(s). The process involves forming a subcommittee of IFC members, one member from each school, and three students from the Student InterCouncil (SIC). This year, we have two openings on the selection committee. The committee's time commitment is December and January through an all-electronic meeting process. The School of Public Health and Cizik School of Nursing members were requested to send an email to Terrie Schade-Lugo if they were interested in participating in the TF Burks Scholarship Selection Committee.

Faculty Tribunal Panel:

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer explained that HOOP 133 – Faculty Termination outlines the process to be used and the procedures that the university will follow in termination of employment or termination before the expiration of the stated period of appointment at UTHealth, who has been granted tenure. During the process, there may be a need for a hearing. If there is cause for a hearing, the President will appoint a tribunal of at least three (3) faculty members to hear the accusation. Per policy, the Tribunal Panel consists of nine (9) tenured faculty members. The IFC nominates six-panel members, and the President selects three members. Currently, the panel has two (2) vacancies, and the IFC is to nominate two (2) new panel members. The panel does not have a member from the UTHealth School of Public Health (SPH); therefore, we need to have one recommendation be from SPH. The attendees were requested to send their nominations to Terrie. A confidential electronic poll will be circulated for the IFC members to select nominees to fill the two open panel positions. The results will be submitted to Dr. Kevin Morano to provide to President Colasurdo.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Campus Reports:

Cizik School of Nursing

Dr. Sandy Branson

- Dr. Diane Santa Maria was appointed dean effective Sept 1, 2020, and will serve as the Jane and Robert Cizik Distinguished Chair and the Huffington Foundation Endowed Chair in Nursing Education Leadership.
- Dr. Melanie McEwen is the latest Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth faculty member to be inducted into The University of Texas Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Academy of Health Science Education (Shine Academy).
- Dr. Maja Djukic, Associate Professor to the Research Department, joined us from the New York University Rory Meyers College of Nursing. Her program of research is in nursing workforce determinants of healthcare quality. She has used innovative educational technologies such as virtual patients and simulation to build interprofessional teamwork competencies for nursing and medical students. So far, over 4000 medical and nursing students have completed the training.
- Dr. Marissa Solórzano joined the CSON as an Instructor. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner who joined our graduate department.
- We are interviewing for several key leadership positions: Assistant Dean of Research, Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Associate Dean of Faculty Development, and Program Directors for the Pacesetter and MSN programs.

Operations and Accreditation

- The CSON is working in a hybrid model for the fall, with didactic courses primarily online with simulation and clinical placement in our acute care and community settings.
- The CSON ran a pilot trial of a dedicated education unit at Memorial Hermann TMC and are analyzing that data to determine whether we expand that to other campuses.
- The CSON is working on the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) spring evaluation visit.

Grants

- Dr. Meagan Whisenant, in collaboration with Dr. Loretta Williams, from the Department of Symptom Research at MD Anderson, was awarded an intramural grant, the Elizabeth W. Quinn Oncology Research Award, to develop a preliminary COVID-19 module to augment the MD Anderson Symptom Inventory (MDASI).
- Dean Diane Santa Maria received a two-year award from the National Institute of Nursing Research of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) providing a \$311,666 supplement to her existing, five-year "Come as You Are" grant, which assesses a nurse case management intervention for HIV prevention and care among youth experiencing homelessness.

Student Scholarships

- Justina Ewoh, MSN, FNP, has been selected as the first recipient of the Jane and Robert Cizik PhD Scholarship. This full-time scholarship was established this year to enable one outstanding future nurse scientist to devote three years to innovative health care research while earning a Doctor of Nursing Philosophy (PhD) from the Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth.
- Rebecca Bergh, MSN, RN, CNM, has become the first Cizik School of Nursing at UTHealth PhD student to receive the prestigious Jonas Nursing and Veterans Healthcare scholarship. Bergh, a PARTNERS Scholar, will use the award to fund her dissertation study of the mental health needs and challenges young parents face experiencing homelessness.
- Several students were provided scholarships on a financial need basis.

Publications

- Dr. Cathy Rozmus and colleagues published a [research study](#) in the *Western Journal of Nursing Research* on cancer-related fatigue reported in online discussion groups
- Dr. Brian Ahn and colleagues published [a research study](#) in the *Journal of Neuroimaging* on transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) and mindfulness-based meditation (MBM).
- Dr. Mary Ellen Ross and Dr. Sabrina Pickens published a [research study](#) in the *Journal of Nursing Education* and a [book chapter](#) related to elder abuse.
- Dr. Anitra Frederick published a [research study](#) titled Intraoperative Mother and Baby Skin-to-Skin contact during cesarean birth in the *American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing*.

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Nicholas De Lay

Change in Graduate Faculty Leadership at GSBS

- Dr. Jefferey Frost from the Dept. of Integrative Biology and Pharmacology has taken over from Dr. Joya Chandra as GSBS Faculty President
- Dr. Michael Galko from the Dept of Genetics at the Univ. of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center was elected Vice President/President-Elect of GSBS Graduate Faculty
- Dr. William Mattox was promoted from Associate Dean to Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Education.

Association of Minority Biomedical Researchers (AMBR) Spotlight

- The latest interview with graduate student Unekwu Yakubu is available online.
<https://gsbs.uth.edu/about/news/gpbs-news-details.htm?id=dda60b36-a62a-4650-844e-7b16339f1056>

Mentoring Works!

- GSBS is planning on restarting its Mentoring Works! Workshop that provides skills on how to be a mentor with the goal of having all GSBS Faculty Members trained.
- GSBS wants to recruit faculty who participated in Mentoring Works! Workshop to participate in the Culturally Aware Mentoring Study, which is focused on improving the training environment for students from

underrepresented groups (More information on this study can be found here: <https://cimerproject.org/cam-nrmn/>).

McGovern Medical School

Dr. Catherine Ambrose

- Two MMS faculty have received 2020 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards: Eugene Toy, Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, and Jeffrey Frost, Integrative Biology and Pharmacology
- Annual Report of Continuing Medical Education Committee
 - Dean Stoll approved the creation of a UHealth CME Office, and it is planned to be operational by the summer of 2021.
- Annual Report of Curriculum Committee:
 - LCME site visit occurred on June 22-23. Virtual visits were scheduled for late August. The final report is expected in February 2021.
- Students are back:
 - MS1 and MS2 students have a combination of video recordings, online conferences, and in-person courses for Doctoring and Anatomy.
 - All interviews for residency and fellowships will be virtual.
 - There are no away electives for MS4's students, and MMS is not accepting outside students for away rotations.
- MMS is celebrating Women in Medicine month by highlighting accomplished women alumni and the progress of women in the profession of medicine.

School of Biomedical Informatics

Dr. Kirk Roberts

- Assistant Professor Licong Cui, who joined SBMI in 2019, has been awarded three NIH grants since the start of 2020: R01s from NINDS and NLM and an R21 from NIA.
- SBMI has been working with Memorial Hermann to make the health system's COVID-19 patient data more accessible to UHealth researchers as part of the data warehouse led by Professor Elmer Bernstam. The data is frequently updated and includes a wide variety of clinical data for MH patients tested for COVID-19.
- Professor Lex Frieden has been interviewed numerous times recently by local and national media regarding the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Michele White

- Dr. Michele White introduced herself as the new Faculty Senate Chair. Congratulations were offered to Dr. Cameron Jeter for being selected as the Chair-Elect for the IFC FY 2021, and Dr. Dharini van der Hoeven is filling the one-year term remaining on Dr. Jeter's at-large position. Dr. Kurt Kasper has also joined the IFC this year on behalf of the School of Dentistry.
- Dr. Daniel Harrington is the new Chair-Elect of the SOD Faculty Senate, and Professor Theresa Dufrene is the new Senate Secretary.
- All UT Clinics, undergraduate and postgraduate, are up and running -including the UT Dentists Faculty Practice.
- Virtual classrooms and some in-lab coursework is occurring following proper guidelines for masking and social distancing.
- Upcoming dates for SOD are as follows: September 30, webinar on BigMouth for Research; October 20 – Research Showcase; October 28 – the ADEA Diversity Workshop; and December 14 – Fall Faculty Assembly.

School of Public Health:

Dr. Ross Shegog

Faculty Council continuing and new items:

- AAR and Peer Review modifications are ongoing. Changes are being made to the AAR form, including instructions for Faculty Associates and Specialists, NTT faculty with no teaching responsibilities, educational track faculty with no research responsibilities, and reporting mentoring of junior faculty.
- The AAR will commence on Fri 18th.

- Faculty mentoring is moving ahead with a formal approach (adopted from the Epidemiology department) for use across departments.
- Faculty retention will be examined in the next Faculty Council meeting.
- Updates on COVID protocols and resources will be provided, including Student updates, UTHealth resources, and UTHealth FAQs.
- A review of statistical software/programming languages/packages used in the school is underway.

Recent Events (Selection of COVID related activities):

- Report from Dean in General Faculty Meeting focused on COVID related school activities including:
 - 1) Modeling the epidemic;
 - 2) Hospital data analytics by zip code and age group;
 - 3) Mapping incidence in communities; Case investigation in San Antonio, Brownsville, and across the state;
 - 4) Education and training (retail, construction, manufacturing, nursing homes, etc.);
 - 5) growth curves by age group;
 - 6) Big data analytics to determine associations with age, ethnicity;
 - 7) Building cohorts (retail, school teachers, federally qualified community health centers, children) to examine seroprevalence.
 - 8) Planning for a TX Epidemic Public Health Institute.
- Report on expense report monitoring for grants.

Media exposure (selected):

- Katelyn Jetelina, PhD, was interviewed by the [Dallas Observer](#) for an article about how social determinants of health play a role in COVID-19 outcomes.
- Catherine Troisi, PhD, was quoted in [The Texas Tribune](#) about how returning to classrooms for in-person learning may affect COVID-19 infection rates.
- Joseph McCormick, MD, was included in a [Houston Press](#) story about reopening the state during the ongoing pandemic.

Dissertation presentations

- One dissertation defense and one proposal defense are occurring in mid-September.

The UTHealth Diversity and Inclusion Task Force Update

Dr. Elaheh Ashtari

Dr. Ashtari provided a summary of the task force charge and intent and mentioned that Drs. Dan Harrington and Elda Ramirez are IFC members and members of the UTHealth Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

The Task Force Charge:

- To facilitate discussions on strengths and opportunities for UTHealth to address issues related to diversity and equity, broadly.
- Examine the best Health Science Center practices related to prioritizing diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Provide recommendations to the University Executive Council on how UTHealth can foster and promote a more inclusive environment related to students, employees, and faculty.
- Recommend priorities and timelines for the implementation of recommendations.
- Communicate with stakeholders regarding recommendations.

The Task Force comprises 32 diversity champions from all schools, Office of Diversity and Inclusion leadership, faculty, classified staff, and students/learners.

Task Force Subcommittees:

Currently, Subcommittees are meeting to discuss issues further as it relates to their subcommittee.

Utilizing SWOT analysis – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

From those SWOT analyses, each subcommittee will draft three recommendations to be considered by the larger group before presenting it to the University Executive Council.

Some of our meetings have been recently canceled due to weather activities, but the plan is to provide final recommendations to the University Executive Council.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Associate Vice President, UTHHealth Faculty Affairs & Development

Dr. Kevin A. Morano

Dr. Morano shared a document on Webex and a copy provided in the meeting materials packet. It is a single-sheet resource on "Coping with COVID." The PDF was emailed to the IFC for their use in sharing the resource.

In conversations with IT concerning the increase of virtual meetings, it has been suggested that Zoom seems to be a more stable environment. The question was asked whether Zoom would be an option as a preferred supported resource. The answer is no; for now, Webex will remain the university's preferred supported resource.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer advised the membership that at the IFC Meeting on October 21, 2020, the following guests would be in attendance:

- Dr. Jair Soares, Chair of Psychiatry from McGovern Medical School, will speak to the IFC membership regarding mental health and COVID; and
- Mr. Scott Forbes, Ms. Kara Crawford, and Ms. Pam Kennedy from the UTHHealth Governmental Affairs Office will join the IFC Meeting to provide a Legislative Update. The Governmental Affairs Office typically joins the September IFC Meeting Transition Meeting of incoming and outgoing IFC Members. Because there was a scheduling conflict in September, we have extended an invitation to the members that left the IFC at the end of FY 2020 to attend the Legislative Update presentation.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Champagne-Langabeer

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Terrie Schade-Lugo, CAP, on October 12, 2020.
Approved by Interfaculty Council on October 21, 2020.