

Minutes of the McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Agenda

Thursday, February 21, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
MSB 2.103 & LBJ UT Annex 217 Auditorium

1. Dr. Carlin brought the meeting to order at 4:33
2. Approval of Minutes. A quorum was present at 4:33 pm and the minutes from January 24, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Reports

Report from Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer – Dr. Blackburn

Francis Collins reached out to all institutions that receive NIH funding to discuss the need to bring more oversight on foreign influences on research integrity and the need to disclose relationships between NIH funded researches and their discoveries. There is a risk of intellectual property threat when researchers share info overseas without the U.S. knowing about it. There must be disclosure of an individual PI's funding including total research support and the sources of funding (grants, contracts, start-up funds). If you are already funded for the same work then it will influence NIH grant decisions. Of note, when the NIH received progress reports they looked at funding disclosures then compared them with funding listed on publications. Raises concerns if there are discrepancies. The institution is held responsible for any discrepancies and risks loss of funding/receipt of NIH funds. We will start a program at UT Health that offers guidance on how to write the grants. The faculty will be held responsible for honest reporting.

Second concern involved confidentiality of peer review. The peer review process should be confidential. Grant reviewers are supposed to keep the information disclosed in the grant confidential and this does not always happen.

A third concern involved the vetting of everyone who does research at our institution (grad students, post-docs, faculty). 40% of our students are international. We want to continue to promote international collaboration. However, we are going to put our visiting scientist program on pause until a committee is formed that can re-vamp the onboarding process. Simultaneously we would like to move all of the documentation, applications and tracking information online. Visiting trainees and observer programs will not be placed on hold. We will work on enhancing all three programs but have concerns about doing so simultaneously.

Questions/Comments:

Will the university provide a standardized way of responding to the NIH? It will be difficult to standardize the response to the NIH. Will deal with it on a case by case basis via the Office of Compliance.

When someone wants to observe for one year, there is no other period of time that is listed except for the category of visiting scientist. We need to revamp the categories to tie people to the correct visa status.

Clinically, four months is the default time plus a two-month extension, but the observer category is too restricted in terms of what the visitor can and cannot do. Might be limiting learning capability.

Undergraduate students/visiting students are also difficult to categorize, particularly if they have a specific timeframe/time limit during which to accomplish a goal (e.g. thesis).

Federal labor laws need to be taken into account. Legal will be involved.

4. Committee Reports

a. IFC Report – Dr. Syed Hashmi

The HOOP committee is amending the policies, specifically policy number 20 on conflict of interest, conflict of commitment and outside activities. Create a guideline on what we should report and who should report. This will be a tool that will be used to establish disclosures, particularly as it pertains to research related disclosures.

Discussed faculty having difficulty accessing journals. There is a need for a bit more education of the faculty.

Lastly, we need to assess where faculty stand in terms of knowledge on progress in promotion, access to mentoring and collaboration amongst schools. There will be a survey from the IFC asking about promotions and mentoring.

b. FAC Report – Dr. Gurur Biliciler-Denktaş

The FAC met in January. Chancellor Millikan discussed UT System's role in underserved populations in terms of promoting education. The state legislative session is this year. There is a need for a chair-elect for FAC. The physician burnout taskforce is moving to its next steps.

c. Administrative Council Report – Dr. Kenya Parks

Alan Vierling executive-vice president has departed from LBJ. 240 students have been accepted into our school this year with a large number of women and minorities. The Memorial Hermann and Baylor Scott & White merger is off. We are being asked not to speculate about the reasoning.

5. Old Business

a. Update on Vacation and Holiday Scheduling – Dr. Carlin

We have a senator in each department gathering info from all 23 depts. We are still waiting to hear from 6 departments. In 2 departments there are several issues that need to be addressed (Internal Medicine and Pathology). There will be a definitive statement at the next meeting. All of the senators need to suggest solutions to the identified problems.

6. New Business: Updating Faculty Senate Website – Dr. Carlin

David Volk has volunteered to be the lead person to update the senate website. Anyone who is interested in providing input should notify Dr. Carlin.

Mockup (i.e., not live): <https://med.uth.edu/test/>

MMS wants to make a bigger contribution to the March of Dimes. Alma Rosas is the contact person for this. The dean will like a larger physical presence there and an increase in monetary donations.

Questions: The med school is updating all of the websites, Will the faculty senate website be consistent with that? Yes. Our webpage is currently out of compliance and needs to be revised to current standards.

7. Adjournment at 5:19 pm.

Next meeting March 21, 2019, 4:30pm

Dr. Nathan Carlin – Chair

Dr. Kenya Parks – Chair-Elect

Dr. Bethany Williams – Secretary

Dr. Rhashedah A. Ekeoduru – Secretary-Elect

Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez – 2017-18 Past-Chair

<https://med.uth.edu/faculty-senate/>
ms.facultysenate@uth.tmc.edu