

Minutes of the McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate

Thursday, July 16, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

WEBEX Meeting

Dr. Parks brought the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting were approved via WebEx at 4:31pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Honored time for Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs Dr. Kevin Morano

No current updates

Election Results: Faculty Senate Chair and Secretary 2021 - 2022

Senate Chair – Dr. Nahid Rianon

Secretary – Dr. Renee Flores

GSEC Annual Institutional Review

Michael Beierlein, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Neurobiology & Anatomy, Chair Graduate Student Education Committee

The Graduate Student Education Committee serves to create educational opportunities, provide chances for learning and career development, to recognize graduate student achievement and to recruit future graduate students. The Dean's Research Scholarship Awards up to \$3000 to doctoral students who have achieved distinction in biomedical research. This year 5 finalists will present their research as part of a symposium, followed by announcement of the winners.

Unfortunately, the research poster competition was cancelled this year secondary to COVID-19.

GSEC funds are also used to provide travel funds for students presenting at conferences and this year were used to purchase six laptops for student use.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Statement on Racial Violence in America

Deana Moylan, AVP, HR, Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Robin Dickey, Ph.D., Academic Ombuds at UTHealth

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion has issued the following statement on racial violence in America:

The horrific killings of Black persons in America highlights the pervasive racial injustices affecting our communities, colleagues, and the patients that we serve. We call for reforms on the use of deadly force by law enforcement, discriminatory practices, and justice for those whose lives have been taken. The American Public Health Association (APHA) states that “Racism is an ongoing public health crisis that needs our attention”. As health professionals, we acknowledge the effects of institutionalized racism on health and well-being. We condemn racism and will never tolerate it. We must act. The time is now. In fact, it is long overdue.

We pledge to:

- ❖ Reaffirm the sanctity and dignity of the individual and commit to providing compassionate and just care for all of those in need, regardless of race.
- ❖ Hold ourselves and others accountable to identify and address racism, in its conscious and unconscious forms.
- ❖ Create environments that are safe and inclusive with equitable access to all resources for all community members.

- ❖ Educate ourselves and our communities on racial disparities. We will maintain ongoing discussions that address racial inequalities and will provide resources to assist in the facilitation of such conversations.
- ❖ Be active participants in the fight against systemic racism. We will share and amplify the voices of Black, indigenous, and other people of color.
- ❖ Work, in our personal and professional lives, to alleviate conditions contributing to the oppression of Black, indigenous, and other people of color.

Question: Is there a motion for the faculty senate to endorse this statement?

Answer: Yes, the Diversity Committee would appreciate Faculty Senate endorsement of this statement.

Action: The Faculty Senate voted to endorse this statement.

Question: What can we do as an organization to leverage best practices to ensure we are practicing diversity and inclusion?

Answer: The Office of Diversity and Inclusion will address this concern to the D&I Taskforce. There is also an annual survey that is sent regarding assessment of diversity and inclusion in the University.

For more information or to discuss a concern:

www.uth.edu/hr/department/equal-opportunity/online_learning_resources.htm

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Announcements

a. Nancy McNiel, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs

Mandatory Days Off Program

Dr. McNiel discussed aspects of the current university mandate where MMS classified administrative support staff and Management A&P personnel are required to take one day per week as vacation or leave without pay for a period of four weeks. Those utilizing leave without pay are eligible for state and special federal unemployment benefits through the Texas Workforce Commission. This is a budget reduction effort due to the University's financial constraints secondary to the pandemic. Groups that are exempt from this mandate include faculty, staff physicians, residents, students, clinical staff with patient-facing responsibilities, postdoctoral research fellows and research staff.

b. Babatope (Tope) Fatuyi, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Information Officer

Transition to EPIC-EMR monthly update

We are currently in the testing phase. The current focus is on quality, integration and user friendliness.

There is currently 48% referral leakage enterprise wide. The goal is to retain patients within the network and improve operational efficiency.

There will be Virtual Town Halls on July 23rd at 11 am and on July 30th at 11 am. The links will be sent via email.

Questions/Comments: The referral leakage is not likely to be fixed via EPIC alone since there are a lot of physicians on our faculty who continue to refer patients outside of our network.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Next meeting August 20, 2020, 4:30pm

Dr. Kenya Maria Parks – Chair

Dr. Catherine Ambrose-Chair-Elect

Dr. Rhashedah A. Ekeoduru – Secretary

Dr. Zi Yang Jiang-Secretary-Elect

Dr. Nathan Carlin – 2018-2019 Past-Chair

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