

Minutes of the McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate

Thursday, May 16, 2019 4:30 p.m.
MSB 2.103 & LBJ UT Annex 217 Auditoriums

Dr. Carlin brought the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Student Committee on Professionalism and Ethics (SCoPE). David Wideman and Kelsey Montgomery, both fourth year medical students, reported on the mission of SCoPE and the group's Defining Professionalism Initiative. SCoPE's role is to promote professionalism at MMS through student led initiatives, act as a sounding board for students on issues of professionalism or ethics, and hear cases of student misconduct and give recommendations to OASA. SCoPE's initiatives include inviting national speakers to MMS, presenting on professionalism to the MSI-III classes, hosting a resident panel on transition to residency, awarding the Excellence in Ethics and Professionalism Award to students, offering an interview etiquette handbook to the rising MSIV class, and the Defining Professionalism Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to create an institutional definition to have a common framework for understanding, promoting, teaching, and achieving professionalism. A survey is being distributed to all members of the McGovern community and focus groups will be held with interested university members to help in establishing a definition of professionalism specific to MMS. Long-term plans will be developed for integrating the definition with the professional identity curriculum.

Questions/Comments

Students tend to write about personal concerns in their evaluations instead of providing constructive and professional remarks. Is this being addressed by SCoPE? SCoPE acknowledges that students can be less than professional in their communications. This has been addressed with students through SCoPE and will continue to be in the future.

The survey items are primarily open-ended and will take some time for respondents to think through and fill it out. This may discourage participation and lead to fewer responses from the MMS community. Can the survey be modified, for example, with five potential definitions of professionalism which respondents can choose from, yet also leave text options that allow for respondents to offer their own suggested definitions? The group discussed possible ways to structure the survey and felt an open-ended format was less restrictive. After receiving and analyzing responses from this survey, SCoPE will create several working definitions that will be presented to focus groups while working toward a final definition for MMS.

Does SCoPE have plans to address the effect of the political climate and approved legislation on professional conduct in medical practice, for example, denial of services based on personal beliefs? SCoPE does not have plans to address this issue at this time.

Has SCoPE referenced professional standards and values in other professional fields, such as the military? Yes, frameworks from the military and other fields have been considered. Also, not only have faculty and students been consulted, but input has also been sought from staff.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Curriculum Committee Report. Dr. Orlander reported that the LCME site visit will be in March 2020. The Curriculum Committee has reviewed the entire curriculum (horizontal/vertical integration), including benchmarks, curricular mapping, and pedagogy utilization. The learning environment and new projects have also been a focus of the committee. A preparation timeline, quality improvement cycle of the curriculum, and curriculum map were presented. Strengths and opportunities for improvement of the medical education program were described. Among strengths were self-directed learning, new pedagogy, and clerkships/clinical exposure. Growth opportunities included communication, variable quality of lectures and formative quizzes, more robust coverage of basic sciences, and student mistreatment/learning environment. Future goals include longitudinal ultrasound and simulation curriculum integration and establishment of a longitudinal integrated clerkship. Dr. Orlander described the career focus tracks and mentoring for MSIVs (i.e., primary care, acute care, applied anatomy, academic career), interprofessional education involving students and faculty from across the UTHealth schools, monthly educational development workshops for faculty, and an Academy of Master Educators Peer Coaching Group (PCG).

Questions/Comments

Concerns were raised about sparse student attendance in some courses. Students have now been required to attend certain classes, including lectures in which patients are present and flipped classrooms.

Apart from the summer research program between the MSI and II years, what other opportunities are available for students to participate in research or would a fifth year be needed? Students can opt for the academic career track, enroll in the scholarly concentrations program, or select a research-focused 3-week elective.

Graduate Student Education Committee (GSEC) Report. Dr. Garsin described GSEC's mission, including creating educational opportunities, providing chances for learning and career development, recognizing graduate student achievement, and recruiting future students. GSEC supports a research poster competition during the MMS Research Retreat. The next retreat is scheduled 10/9/2019. Prizes range from \$200-\$400. GSEC also supports the Dean's Research Scholarship Awards, which grant \$1500 to each awardee. The application deadline is 6/20/2019. GSEC provides travel awards of \$750 to students to offset the cost of attending professional conferences. A total of \$9000 has been given this year. MDACC GSBS students are eligible to receive a one-time grant submission bonus of \$250 to encourage students to apply for grants. Summer undergraduate research students will be welcomed to MMS with an ice cream social on 6/12/2019 as a part of GSEC's effort to recruit students to the graduate program. Each GSBS doctoral program within the MMS is given \$11000.

Questions/Comments

How many students are in the program? On average, 20-25 each year.

Approval of Minutes. A quorum was present at 5:13 pm, and the minutes from April 2019 were approved unanimously.

REGULAR REPORTS

Inter-Faculty Council (IFC) Report. Dr. Hashmi was unable to attend the meeting. A report was not given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- a. The President will be hosting a town hall soon (May 30, 2019) on the state of the university. If you would like to ask a question, please email the question to Dr. Carlin in advance.
- b. If you are interested in serving as Secretary-Elect or Chair-Elect next year, please email Dr. Carlin. The Chair-Elect position should be a basic scientist. Current nominees include **Dr. Catherine Ambrose** for Chair-Elect and **Dr. Zi Yang Jiang** for Secretary-Elect.
- c. The library has informed us that there has been a reduction in access to Mary Ann Liebert (MAL) titles; we can no longer access titles prior to 2014.
- d. The Safety, Health, Environment, and Risk Management Office (SHERM) provided notice that the draft departmental emergency management plan template is now on their webpage: <https://www.uth.edu/safety/occupational-safety-and-fire-prevention/emergency-procedures.htm>. On the webpage, you can use the form “*Department/Unit Specific Emergency Management and Mission Continuity Plan*” to create a plan for your department.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Next meeting June 20, 2019, 4:30 pm
Dr. Nate Carlin – Chair
Dr. Kenya Parks – Chair-Elect
Dr. Bethany Williams – Secretary
Dr. Rashedah A. Ekeoduru – Secretary-Elect
Dr. Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez – Past Chair 2017-2018

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

Minutes approved by the Faculty Senate on 6/20/2019
Minutes submitted by Dr. Bethany Williams, Secretary