

Minutes of the McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

WEBEX Meeting

Dr. Parks brought the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes. The minutes from the April 16, 2020 meeting were approved via WebEx at 5:35pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Honored time opening for Dean Stoll & Dr. Kevin Morano

Dr. Kevin Morano gave a promotion and tenure workshop a few weeks ago via Webex, which had a phenomenal turnout. The information can be accessed online:

<http://Med.uth.edu/administration/appointment-promotion-tenure/>

The Office of Faculty Affairs offers a formal review of faculty readiness for promotion/tenure through the Individual Promotion Plan. Contact Tina Clark (713) 500-5103 to arrange an appointment with Dr. Kevin Morano.

Dr. Morano discussed the University cost-saving initiative encouraging faculty to utilize as many vacation days as possible to help balance our budget.

The University is slowly getting back to business, post COVID-19. The goal is to closely observe the rules set forth by the county, city and state. We are beginning to resume research that was previously put on hold.

Questions: When will students be returning to campus?

Answer: The vast majority of graduate students are already back on campus. Essentially all summer research programs have been cancelled secondary to

concerns about guaranteeing the safety of the medical students and college students. However, there may be certain conditions where students can do research remotely via the internet.

Annual Diversity Committee Presentation

Wade McAlister, MD, Diversity Committee Chair, Assistant Professor,
Department of Orthopedic Surgery, McGovern Medical School

The purpose of the committee is to align McGovern Medical School faculty recruitment and retention efforts with the UTHealth Strategic Goal of developing and sustaining a diverse and inclusive academic and administrative workforce. The goal is to foster a community of faculty and staff that mirrors, culturally, the local Texas community that we serve.

The 21 committee members and 3 ex officio members advise the Dean on diversity related topics, particularly on how to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment, intention in recruitment of top talent and improving access and enhancing success of a diverse faculty.

The 2019 -2020 initiatives are to conduct a Diversity Engagement survey, prepare for the LCME site visit, to create Departmental Vice Chair of Diversity and Inclusion positions (currently in existence in the departments of Anesthesiology, Pediatrics and Family Medicine) and to provide oversight of McGovern's Strategic Plan on Diversity.

Update on the Faculty Holiday Schedules

Nahid J. Rianon, MBBS, DrPH, Associate Professor, Department of Internal Medicine, Geriatric and Palliative Medicine Division

The discussion clarified issues specific departments have had regarding procedures for approving vacation, appropriate holiday compensation, conflict between university and hospital holidays regarding skeleton crew policies and associated vacation documentation requirements, and how to fairly determine and document coverage needs during approved holidays.

Announcements

a. 2020 Committee on Committees election results:

David H. Kim, Surgery

Lesley Osborn, Emergency Medicine

b. Martin Citardi, MD, Professor and Chair, Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Vice Dean for Clinical Technology;

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

Transition to EPIC-EMR monthly update

We are on track to go live with EPIC in 2021. Providers will have the security and functionality to schedule patients. This will be included in provider training.

At the time of provider ordering, we will automatically evaluate all CPT/Diagnosis combinations to determine if we expect to be covered by Medicare.

Provider will be able to share all outpatient progress notes of patients in MyChart by default, but they can also turn off sharing on a note-by-note basis. There will be auto release of lab results to the patient in MyChart.

There will be installation of desktop computers in exam rooms.

Provider Charging implements Epic's recommended best practice charging techniques.

Physicians will learn to use Epic by first completing E-learning in order to decrease in-class hours. Classroom training will be taught by peer physician specialists. There will also be a User Settings Lab to enable users to personalize their Epic profiles.

Questions/Comments: How different will our Epic system be from other hospital systems?

Answer: There should not be significant differences if you are using the same module (e.g., inpatient module). We will be going live with the newest version of Epic. Please still take the training courses, even if you have used Epic before.

c. Peggy Hsieh, M.Ed., Ph.D., Assistant Dean, Faculty and Educational Development

Allison Ownby, Ph.D., M.Ed., Director of Educational Technology

Litao Wang, M.Ed., Director of Educational Development

Office of Educational Program Resources

There are monthly Educational Development Workshops that occur on the 2nd Friday of each month from 12-1:00 pm. These workshops have been transitioned to WebEx during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, there are educational modules that can be accessed online:

<http://go.uth.edu/EduDev>

<https://med.uth.edu/oep/educational-technology/>

There are Quarterly Educational Development Workshops at LBJ. The next one will occur on July 14, 2020. The topic will be Fostering a Positive Learning Environment. The following workshop will focus on Providing Constructive Feedback and Narrative Evaluations and will be held on October 6, 2020.

There is a new Faculty Educational Development Workshop Series focusing on curriculum design, feedback and evaluations, learning environment, and effective teaching tips. A certificate of completion will be awarded through OEP.

There is an 18-month Health Educators Fellowship Program. The application period will begin in October of 2021. The duration of the program is January 2022 – June 2023.

d. Luis Ostrosky-Zeichner, MD, Vice-Chair, Healthcare Quality, Professor, Department of Infectious Diseases

COVID-19 Updates

There are close to 5 million cases worldwide, with the U.S. having 1/3 of the total cases.

There has been an increase in positive cases after the stay at home orders were lifted.

Memorial Hermann has evaluated over 3,000 cases.

COVID-19 is not airborne, there is a 3-day environmental survival, it is susceptible to common disinfectants, it is prone to person to person spread, and mortality is associated with age and underlying comorbidities.

We do not know the true number of cases, whether there is vertical transmission or how contagious the virus is overall.

Universal masking has significantly decreased viral transmission on campus. Memorial Hermann has begun PCR testing. Thus far, 4% of employees have tested positive. UT Health is seeing 5% positivity.

UT Health and Memorial Hermann are working together to jointly combat the pandemic, appropriately screen visitors, reprocess masks and provide viral testing. There is a PCR test that detects active infection and shedding and there is antibody testing for our healthcare providers. Turnaround time is 2 hours for the rapid test and 8-24 hours for regular testing.

Question: What percentage of patients were treated with convalescent plasma treatment?

Answer: It is too early to tell but we have determined that we need to begin treatment earlier.

Question: What is the mortality at Hermann?

Answer: Fewer than 20 patients.

Question: Is there going to be a second wave in Houston and how bad will it be?

Answer: If it will occur, it will be within the next few weeks, particularly the middle of June.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Next meeting June 18, 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>