

UTHealth McGovern Medical School Faculty Senate

Thursday, September 16, 2021 | 4:30 pm WEBEX
Meeting

Minutes

1. Call to Order at 4:30pm - Dr. Catherine Ambrose
2. Approval of Minutes (August 2021)
3. Dr. Kevin Morano thanked the Senate chair and secretary from 2020-2021.
4. Transition of Chair – from Dr. Catherine Ambrose to Dr. Nahid Rianon
5. Announcements
 - a. Welcome new Senators- Dr. Rianon
 - b. Housekeeping-
 - If you call into the meeting, please email Valerie and Dr. Rianon so that you get credit for attending
 - 60% attendance to meet requirements as part of the faculty senate
 - c. Women in Medicine Month Celebration- September is the month of this celebration
 - Total UTH women faculty 751, Associate Dean 3, Assistant Dean 1, Vice Dean 3, Department Chair 4, Interim Chair 1
6. Reports (15 minutes)
 - a. Faculty Affairs Update – Dr. Kevin Morano
 - September 1st → 94 applications for promotion: 14 tenure, 80 non-tenure track
 - Extensions given to tenure track faculty 2/2 to COVID
 - MAPP launched, 15 groups, 176 mentees, 30 mentors
 - Annual Faculty Review Started-Important for faculty to use for promotion, compensation, titles, feedback
 - Women Faculty Forum- accepting applications for Excellence Awards (due September 28)
 - b. Interfaculty Council Update – Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder
 - Dr. Cameron Jeter – new IFC Chair transitioned from Dr. Tiffany Champagne-Langabeer
 - Dr. Morano reported on the Town Hall updates
 - Funding for UTH – received \$8.8 million (3.9%) increase in Instruction & Operations funding
 - New Legislation passed
 - SB1251 – SPH & MDACC offer a joint degree
 - SB1780 – Texas Infrastructure for Public Health (Pandemic Preparedness – Public Health Workers as a Reserve Force)
 - HB2090 – Texas All Payer Claims Database (Comprehensive health care resource of claims data to inform policy, provide transparency, drive quality)
7. Old Business (5 minutes)
 - a. MMS COVID-19 Resolution – Dr. Catherine Ambrose
 - Resolution passed based on faculty senate votes
8. New Business (20 minutes)
 - a. Proposed Faculty Health Support Taskforce – Dr. Nahid Rianon
 - Focus on resilience
 - Survey in 2016-2017: Ombudsman program developed
 - Added stressors in pandemic, personal life entanglements with work life
 -
 - Voting through polling in chat box – proposal of forming a task force was approved with >50% vote during the meeting
 - Dr. Morano → UT System has a working group on burnout and

resilience. Meets twice a year. Last meeting 9/16/2021. They are continuously looking for ideas to decrease burnout and improve resilience.

b. COVID-19 Update – Dr. Luis Ostrosky

- Admissions still high in the TMC hospitals
- Elective surgeries are still on hold
- Pediatric admissions are increasing, used to 5% and now as high as 20%
 - Prior congenital diseases, and now more without any comorbidities
 - Schools are open and now higher level of transmission in the schools therefore spike in cases
- CDC forecasting for Texas & Harris County
 - Delta variant is more infectious, 5x more infections
 - Breakthroughs: vaccinated people may experience breakthrough infection and this includes delta variant
 - Unvaccinated vs vaccinated people- greater risk of disease is still seen in unvaccinated people
 - Booster doses of COVID vaccine
 - Pfizer likely to be approved around 9/20/21
 - Moderna and Johnson & Johnson data are still pending
 - COVID vaccine can now be ordered for patients while in the hospital
 - Employers > 100 employees mandate for vaccines (Institutions that receive Federal contracts, such as UT-H may be included in the mandate). It's unclear how state and federal mandates that conflict will be decided.
 - FAQs/Review scenarios on University website regarding exposures and definitions of exposures for guidance. There are also instructions for concerning cases and reporting, policies and procedures.

c. Resident Stress From COVID-19 Related Exposure in Children – Dr. Amanda Herrmann

- “Residents as parents in the time of COVID”
 - “So. Hard.”
 - Uncertainty- will kids need quarantine, need time off, multiple kids at multiple schools, how to manage emergent call
 - Finances- residents cannot afford reliable child care, hard to find child care, care.com not a viable option for back up
 - COVID illness- even if vaccinated-not a guarantee, kids cannot be vaccinated, multiple kids in the same house, not having the option to stay home with sick kids
 - Emotional stress- small number of female parent residents, unique situations, impression on Program director and co-residents, stress from daycare calls, how does time off impact training
 - What to do? Reach out to parent residents, Be understanding, Be clear about sick days, new ABMS leave policies, understanding of resident commitment

d. GME Update on COVID-19 Related Stress – Dr. Pamela Promecene

- Weekly average of TMC Daily COVID cases increased
- Timeline Review of COVID from March 4, 2020 to July 2021
- UTH Resources for management of COVID related stress
 - Insecure about ability
 - Lack of support system
 - Fear of COVID
 - UTHHealth website→Wellness→ Wellness Hub→FRAP (fellow, resident assistant program) Program Services →Emotional Health Resources in the Time of Coronavirus
 - Search McGovern Medical school website→COVID 19 new (in search tab)→

UTHealth COVID-19 Resources

- GME perspective: discussed following topics-
 - Vacation
 - Sick leave
 - Administrative time
 - Scheduled day off
 - Sick leave/FMLA/personal leaves
 - Research time
 - Telemedicine
 - Graduation requirements: ABMS and ACGME requirements

9. Announcements

- a. McGovern Cook Book, recipes to Jennifer Ramos

10. Adjournment at 5:36pm

Next meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 4:30 PM

Dr. Nahid Rianon – Chair

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder – Chair-Elect

Dr. Renee Flores – Secretary

Dr. Olasimbo Chiadika – Secretary-Elect

Dr. Catherine Ambrose – 2020-2021 Past-Chair

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