

Dean's Faculty Advisory Council
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine

November 6, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Thad Wilson, at 12:05 PM on November 6, 2023, in person and on the Zoom online platform.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Mark Bugnitz, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Jay Fowke, PhD, MPH, MS, Patrick Koo, MD, Francesca-Fang Liao, PhD, Erica Mitchell, MD, MEd SE, FACS, DFSVS, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Phyllis Richey, PhD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD, Nikki Zite, MD, Paul J Koltnow, MS, MSPAS, PA-C

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Pres. Wilson invited Jay Fowke to update the group on his efforts in the Faculty Mentorship committee. Anyone wishing to join this committee should contact Jay, Pres. Wilson, or Sec'y Morreim. Dr. Fowke recalled that, per Andrea Malkin some weeks ago, Interim Dean Verne has interest in moving forward on creating some sort of faculty mentorship program for junior faculty. Dr. Fowke indicated that he has met with Ms. Malkin, who indicated that no concrete plans have been described at this point, and that Dr. Fowke is encouraged to communicate with faculty to discern their level of interest, ideas about what mentorship might look like, and the like. He has found great support for the concept, and many faculty have come from places with established programs providing mentorship. He has also learned that sustainability is an important issue, as sometimes such programs tend to fade over time. In that light, any program at UTHSC should be designed with sustainability in mind. Faculty retention would be one potentially very large favorable impact. As the Dean's office has been preoccupied with LCME's followup visit (which concluded in late October), only limited attention has been devoted thusfar to a mentorship program.

Further DFAC discussion indicated that this sort of program would need funding, to release faculty time for the activities attendant to mentoring. Former Pres. Sharp indicated that a program developed several years ago had received support-in-principle from various department chairs and from the Dean's office. The update is that supposedly it was sent to the Chancellor's office, and we may be awaiting his response.

Faculty interested in participating in the committee with Jay include Erica Mitchell, Mace Coday, Larry Pfeffer and Phyllis Richey. At various points an LCME requirement was alluded to, in the context of this discussion. That requirement is as follows:

LCME 4.5: Faculty Professional Development.

"A medical school or its sponsoring institution provides for the development of each faculty member in the areas of discipline content, curricular design, program evaluation, student assessment methods, instructional methodology, and research to enhance his or her skills and leadership abilities in these areas."

Pres. Wilson invited the DFAC to suggest any issues they would like DFAC to take up with the Dean, from now until the end of the academic year. In the ensuing discussion it was noted that, although some of DFAC's initiatives (eg the mentorship program) have not found much traction, some others have, and DFAC members are encouraged to consult their faculty to learn of any issues that faculty wish to bring to the Dean and CoM administration.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 4, 2023, at 12:00n CT / 1pm ET by Zoom and in person in room 502, 910 Madison building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary