

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

February 18, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Burt Sharp, at 12:07 PM on February 18, 2020, in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Penny A. Asbell, MD, Mark Bugnitz, MD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, KU Malik, PhD, DSc, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Neena Thomas-Gosain, MD, Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD, Peg Hartig, PhD

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

Scott Strome, MD, Polly Hofmann, PhD

Approval of minutes

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

Business

Dr. Penny Asbel reported for the Branding committee, introducing Alan Burns from UTHSC's Marketing and Communications. She noted that UTHSC faculty have been doing a lot of important research that is too often under-recognized, and that the faculty who are doing such research and other projects tend to identify themselves as being from one or another hospital rather than being from the CoM at UTHSC. One important culture change will be to encourage all who work for UTHSC's CoM, not just faculty, to identify the CoM as their primary institution, rather than one or another affiliate. Other projects for the committee include in-house research, to identify CoM stakeholders and collect their ideas; research other institutions' branding approach; and tap into the pride that CoM stakeholders have in the institution. A map has been created, identifying physicians across the state who have graduated from the CoM.

Two things are needed: [1] the committee needs our stories about the CoM at its finest; it could be research, clinical care, administration, whether now or in the past; [2] identify how we define the value of the CoM: where are we in relationship to these strengths; how do we value our CoM connection. Overall, a focus is to discern how we can all unite under the UT CoM "flag." It's a value question, not a data question.

Dr. K U Malik then provided an update for the Research committee. The goal of the committee for now has been to develop a proposal for training young physician-scientists. The program will consist of mentored training for as many as 5 junior faculty physician-scientists over 5 years, during which time

each individual will direct and complete a publishable clinical study and apply for extramural research support. Research Mentors and a mentoring committee (3 or more faculty) will be matched to the trainee's field of research. These clinicians will be permitted as much as 50% time to develop their abilities to do successful research, and seek/secure extramural funding. The plan also calls for recruiting senior faculty who seriously wish to serve as mentors. Regular monitoring and evaluation will also be part of the program. Based on program success, an additional group of trainees will be identified after about two years.

DFAC discussion concerned the need for an overall curriculum for all the trainees, regardless of who the mentor may be, or in what field the research might be, eg, to help such trainees to learn better how to undertake research – how to frame the question, design the project, ensure appropriate research ethics, etc. Additionally it was noted that the Dept of Preventive Medicine has begun some of these sorts of instruction; e.g. they will be holding a grants-writing training program this summer. Funding arrangements must also be described, e.g. that it may be between the departments and the dean's office.

The next step, per Dean Strome, may be to place this idea before the executive group (department chairs etc) in the CoM. Their input could provide the next level of detail in the proposal, e.g. to determine how a department might identify mentors, ensure the necessary release time for the trainees, etc.

Dr. Terry Cooper updated the Policy committee's latest work, regarding changes to the CoM Bylaws. At this meeting time permitted only some of those changes to be reviewed, leaving the rest for future DFAC meetings. Dr. Cooper went through a number of mostly administrative changes, and additionally flagged a few more substantive questions for future DFAC discussion. One such question concerns whether to ensure that every DFAC meeting will be available to remote-campus DFAC members, or whether that outreach should mainly focus on two meetings per year. A compromise approach might be to invite regional campuses to bring whatever issues they wish to discuss the president prior to a given meeting, rather than restricting the number of all-campus meetings per year. As noted, additional proposed Bylaw changes will be discussed at future meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 2, 2020, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary