

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

October 5, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer, at 12:04 PM on October 5, 2020, on the Zoom online platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Julio F. Cordero-Morales, PhD, Mace Coday, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, KU Malik, PhD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Mark Bugnitz, MD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shepherd, MD, Joy Steadman, MD, MBA, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Katherine Nearing, MD, Neena Thomas-Gosain, MD

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

Polly Hofmann, PhD, Andrew Griffith, MD, PhD, Richard Smith, PhD

Approval of minutes

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

Business

Pres. Pfeffer introduced Dr. Andrew Griffith, who came to UTHSC from NIH three months ago as the Associate Dean for Research. He presented to DFAC a draft of the Strategic Plan for Research, which is designed to fit with the broader UTHSC strategic plan. The draft includes attention to infrastructure, such elements as sharing of instruments, increasing the number of industry-sponsored clinical trials; and to improving connections among researchers at various stages of translational research; also to creating collaborations across disciplines, colleges, campuses, universities, hospitals, and industry (e.g., including Oak Ridge and UTK College of Engineering); enhancing mentorship; recruiting and retaining faculty and staff; promoting diversity and inclusivity; addressing resource needs per priorities; allocating space per priorities.

The current draft strategic plan is not comprehensive at this time, but rather is a realistic summary of achievable objectives. At this early stage, the document is, in some sense, a plan-for-a-plan.

It was suggested that perhaps some members of DFAC, particularly the research subcommittee, collaborate on the further development of the strategic research plan. Dr. Griffith might, e.g., identify a few highest-priority goals for DFAC input, and the development of additional details in the plans. Dr. Griffith welcomed the idea, noting that involvement of chairs is also essential.

For the current Research Strategic Plan, the DFAC will be invited to suggest any additional comments no later than October 15. DFAC members are encouraged to share this draft with their department faculty for additional input by that date.

Dr. Hofmann then turned to the draft Strategic Plan for Service. The plan includes community education, healthy lifestyles, equitable access to healthcare providers, and community COVID testing. The activities listed in the plan are not comprehensive, as the CoM engages in many other service activities. The CoM is also collaborating with various community organizations, such as the Frayser Community Association and the Wolf River Conservancy.

For the current Service Strategic Plan, DFAC members are invited to suggest any additional comments no later than October 15. DFAC members are also encouraged to share this draft with their department faculty.

Pres. Pfeffer then initiated a discussion about the CUME/Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education. DFAC is being asked to suggest three new members for that committee. Whereas many of the current members are in administrative and leadership roles, the need at this time is for faculty who actively teach medical students. In addition to asking DFAC members who may be interested, Dr. Hofmann will send out an all-faculty request for volunteers and then will request DFAC to suggest whom on this list might be optimal selections. The deadline for this will be October 31.

Pres. Pfeffer has indicated that there are several applicants for the position of Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion, and DFAC members are invited to indicate whether they would like to participate in interviewing these candidates. Those interested should indicate to Dr. Pfeffer or Dr. Morreim by October 12.

Some discussion centered on a recent "Executive Order on Combatting Race and Sex Stereotyping," from the US president (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-race-sex-stereotyping/>). Further information will be shared as it comes forward. It was suggested to ask UTHSC legal counsel what role DFAC could legitimately play in the CoM's response to that Order. It will be helpful to gain greater specificity from UT's president and UTHSC's chancellor on how UT, and UTHSC, will respond.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on November 2, 2020, at 12:00 Noon by Zoom.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary