



School of Medicine

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly

Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2025

4:00pm-5:00pm

Zoom Meeting

In Attendance: A. Abreo, S. Alahari, A. Augustus-Wallace (proxy for G. Athas), A. Bennett, J. Berthelot, J. Calandria, J. Cameron, T. Castellano, M. Cook, J. Gardner, M. Harrington, J. Hart, S. Holman, , M. Korah-Sedgwick, C. Leblanc, N. Loganantharaj, E. McDonough, B. McGee (proxy for M. Clement), L. Pelaez, P. Prasad (proxy for J. D'Souza), S. Primeaux (proxy for S. Kamboj), R. Siggins, L. Simon-Peter, , L. Tanner-Sanders, C. Taylor, V. Vaitaitis, E. Wisner, R. Zambrano

Absent: R. Kline, L. Marrero, M. Reinoso, T. Reske, J. Schoen, A. Smith

Welcome and call to order at 4:02pm by President Gardner

Approval of the May meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Dr. Siggins, second by Dr. Calandria, none opposed. Meeting minutes are posted on SOM Faculty Assembly Webpage. https://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/faculty_assembly/FA%20Minutes%205-1-25%20final.pdf

Reports:

1. **Executive Committee** (Gardner): Did not have a separate report.
2. **Administrative Council** (Augustus-Wallace): Darren Burkett, Executive Director of EH&S discussed Hurricane Preparedness. New Interim Department Heads: Jaime Alleyn, MD-OB/GYN, Erich Conrad, MD-Psychiatry, Dan Kapusta, PhD-Pharmacology. LCME update by Dr. English. Site visit Oct 20-22, 2026. Basic Science Restructuring is ongoing, currently disseminating information to faculty. Less emphasis on departments and more emphasis on centers of excellence. Dr. DiCarlo has been meeting with departments to discuss the restructuring. Areas of research interest tie to the SOM Strategic Plan.
3. **Faculty Senate** (Cameron): Dr. Porche (VCAA) provided update on SACS report. There were no surprises, but want written, regular evaluations of the LSUHSC-NO Chancellor. Hope is for a 10 year renewal. Sandra Andrieu from the Dental School is now the SACS Administrator for LSUHSC-NO. Several of our Centers of Excellence (e.g. Neuroscience) will be going up for renewal at the next Board of Regents meeting. Additionally, a new Trauma & Burn Center of Excellence has been submitted for review. Board of Regents voted to approve Biomedical Sciences PhD Program. There are new executive orders for IBC committees to ensure more transparency. Including publishing rosters and meeting minutes. The IBC will have to demonstrate sufficient oversight. Multiple programs on campus want to expand to online or remote services (Dental Hygiene/Nursing/Public Health). LSU-BR, there is a new Interim President and Provost. This may affect our campus, for example, P&T expectations. Unclear what the Interim President will expect and how much he will scrutinize applications as they come through. Senate voted to ratify the 2025 Faculty Handbook. This version will take effect July 1, 2025.

Old Business

- a. FA elections update (Voting deadline 6/9)
- b. FA Executive positions available/Senate positions available. The new SOM President, Maria Reinoso will preside over the August meeting. New Delegates will attend. Will need to elect a President-Elect (Basic Sci), a Secretary, both administrative council representatives and one Senate representative (clinical).
- c. GraphPad Institutional subscription has been approved. Ken Boe will be sending out the information. Approval 162 licenses. If we need more, has to get special permission. He will likely send out email to see who needs in next couple of weeks.

Call for New Business

- a. IRB/ORS: Dr. Porche sent out an email with staff and throughput numbers. There is not an easy way to figure out timelines from Kualu. Will be able to hire an IT person to work in that office to make reports and work with systems that need to talk with each other (ex. CATS to Kualu, etc.). Approval for a total of 6 analysts in the IRB office. The delays in office are related to getting people on-boarded and trained. Discussed the possibility of hiring external service, most of these companies serve as an IRB board (not staff). Staff can review amendments, exemptions, can manage throughput of the protocols, can triage, update Kualu on backend to send out notifications to PIs. Discussed accreditation process for IRB, (through dec 2025), Our accreditation company is willing to work with us, missed our deadlines, submitted to previous VCAA, but not submitted to company. If we are not accredited, it does not mean our IRB shuts down. We need a policy manual to get accreditation in future. Policy manual has been inactivated by legal counsel and is undergoing rewriting. Kualu needs to be updated, still may be trying to determine which product we will move forward with. Executive Director for ORS position has 6 applications 2 internal, 4 external. Still under strict monitoring plan with FDA. Funded projects and Cancer Center projects have priority.
- b. August FA Meeting will be held on August 14th.
- c. Possible off-cycle meeting with Dean DiCarlo, requested a Town Hall Meeting with Dr. DiCarlo to discuss Basic Science Restructuring.

Adjourn: Motion by Dr. Alahari, 5:01pm