

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly

Agenda

September 3rd, 2020

Attendance: M. Levitzky, J. Guidry, S. Primeaux, E. Wisner, D. Filipe, Z. Ali, C. Wu, S. Alahari, J. Gardner, X Yue, M. Houser, A. Augustus-Wallace, L. Stuke, J. Gidday, C. Taylor, N. Nair, P. Prasad, L. Reilly, J. Cameron, R. Gupta, S. Kamjoj, J. Hunt, S. Kamboj, J Surcouf, J. Cameron, R. Gomez, C. Leblanc, S. Holman, L. Reilly, S. Sarkar, L. Sanders, E. James

Proxy: J. Hart (S. Kamboj)

Absent: D. LeBlanc, N. Tanner, K. Happle, R. Zambrano, A. Creel, J. Crabtree

Called to order: 4:03pm

1. Approval of the August meeting minutes (motion S. Kamboj , second M. Levitzky)
2. Guest: Dean Steve Nelson
 - a. Budget has no cuts, but there is a concern a mid-year, or next-year cut could be looming.
 - i. Louisiana has 100-150 million dollar surplus from the CARES Act that can act as a cushion
 - ii. Rebuilding from Hurricane Laura may help sales tax revenue for next year, and prevent a budget cut for either mid-year or next year
 - iii. However, there is a hiring freeze in effect because of questions to the budget. So far, this has not been a problem for Dr. Nelson in hiring needed faculty and staff in both the clinical and research environments.
 - b. COVID Testing
 - i. Testing continues for all clinical staff and faculty in direct contact with patients. 1600 employees and residents; 1/3 tested positive for antibodies.
 - ii. A Lumina System has been acquired at a cost of \$750,000 that will increase our bandwidth for COVID testing, about 800 a day, as well as other viruses.
 1. This system is for in-house testing only at this point.
 2. However, Dr. Nelson recognizes the potential need for surveillance testing in the future, and this system could be employed for that.
 3. Currently this system will also help facilitate research endeavors surrounding COVID and testing as well.
 - iii. The Department of Psychiatry is providing a Help line for people experiencing anxiety and stress due to the COVID crisis. This program is completely anonymous and open to all faculty, staff, and students.
 - iv. Remote Work and Study is recommended at this time. Dr. Nelson stressed that safety is his foremost concern, and he has asked for anyone who can do his or her work remotely, to do so.
 - v. Overall, reported cases of COVID on campus are declining, and Dr. Nelson reinforced that he would like to keep it this way and not move into Phase 3 until fully needed.

- vi. Leslie Capo to post information on electronic billboards with information on COVID-19
- c. Faculty Searches
- i. Head of Medicine is currently between on in-house candidate (Frank Smart) and one external candidate (Cynthia Brown, UAB).
 - ii. Psychiatry is between one external candidate (Drew) and two internal (Conrad, Thomson).
 - iii. Anesthesia had a single external candidate that was interviewed 3 times before withdrawing from consideration.
 - iv. Cell Biology and Anatomy had Dr. Sam McClugage step down, and Dr. Carmen Canivier has taken over as Interim.
 - v. Associate Dean of Admission is currently only an internal search, and Dr. Nelson expressed his desire to quickly fill the position by the end of September.
 - vi. Family Medicine has instated Dr. James Campbell as Interim Head after Dr. Coleman stepped down.
 - vii. LCMC is working with The School of Medicine to hire a Cancer Center Director for Clinical Services. The ideal candidate will be a clinician or a clinician scientist and b fully supported by The LCMC. This is a separate position from the Basic Research Cancer Center Director and is meant to address the high burden of cancer to our community.
 - viii. Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion had 14 applicants and was narrowed down to 5 recommended candidates for Dr. Larry Hollier. He has chosen 3 to interview. Dr. Nelson was very impressed with the representation of those who applied and is hopeful this position will be filled soon.
- d. Renovations
- i. The University Hospital building is under renovation at a total cost of 65 million dollars and is a shared expense by both the State and the University. Expected completion is about 1 year. Clinical faculty office space, simulations laboratories, and teaching will be located in this building.
 - ii. The pedestrian bridge over Tulane Ave is under an air rights conflict. He reiterated that safety is his primary concern, and nights and weekend traffic create a problem for pedestrians crossing without a police car actively present.
- e. Questions:
- i. The Wellness Center is moving.
 - ii. Salary Compaction was addressed. Dr. Nelson is aware of the problem and has been trying to address it since he became Dean. He stated that he believes the whole system of establishing base pay needs to be revamped, but he also understands that it is an expensive problem because benefits are also based on base pay. He suggested we invite Dr. DiCarlo to discuss this issue, and mentioned an in-house study that looked at discrepancies within the equity of the salary base pay system.
 - iii. Although off-site Clinical Rotations for students are limited during the COVID crisis, we are open for business, and all students are able to attend clinics. Dr. Nelson speculated that because students aren't able to attend off-site clinics,

we will probably see an increase in retention for matches as students will choose to stay in Louisiana.

- iv. While CSRB construction has caused significant noise, Dr. Nelson has not heard any complaints regarding animal care. Alternate locations, including The Dental School and LCRC, are available for housing animals. There appears to be no problems so far with saturation of these venues.
- v. LSUHSC currently tests faculty, staff, and student, but so far there is no testing for family members for COVID. His office can help if there is a need to test family members, but not through the Seton Building Clinic.
- vi. Dr. Nelson was asked about Phase 3 reopening by the Governor, and he hopes it doesn't happen until the country is better situated. Again he reinforced the need for protecting faculty, staff and particularly students from unnecessary exposure to COVID, and asked that everyone who can perform the jobs and study from home.
- vii. Pilot project grants for COVID-19. Dean will seed money for grants. Put in proposal with Xavier to help with underserved population with COVID-19.

3. Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – cancelled this month due to tropical storms
- b. SOM Administrative Council – cancelled this month due to tropical storms
- c. Faculty Senate
 - i. Alicia Edwards is the new Admission Director
 - ii. New Interim Vice-Chancellor of Finance is Keith Schroth
 - iii. Construction projects not mentioned by Dr. Nelson include:
 - 1. New Student Housing behind the hospital
 - 2. New garage is proceeding
 - 3. CSRB renovations are on schedule

4. Old Business:

- a. Updates to the Bylaws: Survey Monkey for available times
- b. Faculty Evaluation System meeting to make some progress but another meeting has been scheduled

5. Call for New Business:

No new business.

6. Adjourn (motion S. Kamboj , second M. Levitzky) 4:50 pm