LSUHSC SOM Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes

Meeting held Thursday, January 5, 2017

**Opening:** President P. Winsauer called the regular meeting of the Assembly to order at 4:03 p.m. in Room 7 on the 6th floor of the Lions Building.

**Present:** Ali, M.; Campeau, L.; Crabtree, J.; De Silva, T.; Engel, L.; Foster, T.; Gardner, J.; Greiffenstein, P.; Hetzler, L.; Houser, M.; Hunt, J.; Kamboj, S.; Kelly, B.; Lentz, J.; Levitzky, M.; Mooney, J.; Neumann, D.; Prasad, P.; Surcouf, J.; Taylor, C.; Winsauer, P.

**Absent:** Callahan, K.; Delacroix, S.; Guillory, S.; Polite, F.; Sherman, W.; Spieler, B.

**Proxies:** Kelly, B. for Sturtevant, J.; Lentz, J. for Holman, S.; Levitzky, M. for Happel, K.; Mooney, J. for Lee, O.

1. **Approval of Minutes from the December meeting:** M. Levitzky put forth a motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting, and S. Kamboj seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.
2. **Reports**
   1. **Executive Committee** – (P. Winsauer)
      1. Dr. Di Carlo’s transition to Senior Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs was discussed. Dean Nelson stated that Dr. Di Carlo and Dr. Letourneau, who is retiring but will work part time (25%) in Radiology, have been meeting with Department Heads and staff to assist with his transition.
      2. Dean Nelson indicated that he will be restructuring the Dean’s office. A series of meetings directed toward this effort began in December.
      3. Process for Dr. English’s promotion was discussed. Dean Nelson stated that although the process was very autocratic, he felt a rapid transition was needed because of the upcoming LCME accreditation, and that she was very deserving of the promotion. Dr. Winsauer stated that he raised questions concerning the process because it may have prevented other quality candidates from coming forward to apply. Dean Nelson stated that he understands the issues and is willing to discuss further.
      4. Update on Dr. Sheila Chauvin’s replacement was discussed. Dr. Nelson stated that he is working with central administration to figure out how to satisfy both OMERAD and SOM missions. Dean Nelson would like the person in that position to focus on LSUHSC SOM faculty and student development.
      5. Recent progress on LCME accreditation was discussed. Dean Nelson stated that subcommittees are doing great work and that many faculty are helping Dr. Di Carlo develop a response to standards.
      6. Recent GMAC report concerning increased utilization of CAP by faculty, students, and staff was discussed. Dean Nelson stated that he looked into the increase and while the number of individual’s utilizing this assistance program have doubled in recent months; the increase is small in relation to size of our school and campus. A third staff member has also been hired to handle the increase volume.
      7. Manageability of mid-year budget cuts was discussed. Dean Nelson feels mid-year cut is very manageable; however, he expressed concern for the budget shortfall for the next fiscal year, which is expected to be $1-2B.
      8. Dean Nelson is still pushing for raises with the Chancellor. He stated that the lack of raises (2 given over the last 9 years), contributes to loss of faculty and that it’s cheaper to give equity raises to retain than hire new. He’s pushing for raises to address compression (and at market value!).
   2. **SOM Administrative Council** – (P. Winsauer)
      1. Appointments and Promotion packets were approved. Dr. Winsauer expressed concern about the circular process by which Administrative Council (largely made up of Dept. Heads) approves promotions that are essentially put forth by the Dept. Heads, and does so *after* the SOM A & P committee has rendered their decision. In addition, Dept. Heads have at least two opportunities to appeal A & P committee decisions – first with the A & P committee and then again to the Administrative Council if they do not agree with the outcome of the appeal to the A & P committee. Lastly, the appeal to Administrative Council only requires a brief statement/presentation of the candidate by the Dept. Head to the Admin. Council and not even as much as a CV typically accompanies this appeal. The A & P committee is scheduled to meet with Dr. DiCarlo next month to discuss some of these issues.
      2. Dr. Letourneau was thanked for years of service, and Dr. Di Carlo was thanked for taking on the position.
   3. **Faculty Senate** – (P. Winsauer)
      1. Dr. Hollier has communicated to Dr. Delacroix a commitment to address the ongoing housekeeping issue, particularly in the MEB.
         1. Dr. Winsauer expressed concern over the lack of pick up over holidays – 2 weeks.
         2. FA and Senate will continue to push this issue.
      2. Seton building is now going to be a station for state troopers, and their cars will be parked in the lot behind Seton Building.
      3. Dr. Delacroix has received a commitment from Dr. Moerschbaecher to help establish an educator track as long as it does not require changing a permanent memorandum (PM). Senate is hoping to get it passed quickly.
3. **Old Business** 
   1. Update on the new curriculum. (D. Neumann) –
      1. Dr. Neumann reported that Dr. Farris is working on issues such as how to make up and grade missed and/or excused absences from Team-Based Learning (TBL) activities, which count for 25% of grade.
      2. Faculty have expressed concern about how much input the students have in policy development with regard to the curriculum. Currently, policy changes are being presented to students, and the students vote, and the policy is then changed according to the vote.
      3. Students that do not pass a block are also an issue, because remediation will not be as simple as repeating the course over the summer – as was done when a student failed a traditional course.
      4. Dr. Neumann reported that the Dean has generally been pleased with overall curriculum changes.
      5. Students are doing really well on customized exams. But, are we teaching too much to the exams? We’re picking the questions (customized exams) and teaching to them. How do we ensure that customized exams grades will correlate with step scores?
   2. Faculty Assembly charity fundraising efforts were discussed by P. Winsauer and T. De Silva. –
      1. Dr. Winsauer indicated that the Faculty Senate will be sponsoring “Coffee for a Cause”, to raise money for LSU faculty, staff and students that were affected by the BR flood. The Nursing School already holds a similar event each week for their own causes (1 $ - coffee and donut) and it has been fairly successful.
      2. The idea is to hold a similar event on a campus-wide scale in the Chancellor’s Conference Room (3rd floor MED), and sponsored by each school once/month. Initial goal is to get people together casually.
      3. The first Coffee for a Cause will be on January 20th and sponsored by the Senate.
      4. Dr. Winsauer asked delegates for their opinion on the time, duration, and donation amount. Delegates suggested two hours (7– 9 a.m.) and a donation of $2.00.
   3. Fitness Center hours were discussed.
      1. Questions regarding the cost to card-only access and whether camera’s that are monitored by campus security would mitigate liability issues for the facility. Senate will likely push this issue.
   4. The level of scholarly activity was discussed.
      1. Dr. Winsauer recommended that we invite Dr. Di Carlo to discuss his vision regarding institutional support to boost scholarly activity and promotion.
4. **New Business –** 
   1. Dean Nelson stated that he would continue to provide financial support for the FA awards. He also stated that Alumni Awards will be given out again this year. Dr. Crabtree will chair the committee, comprised of Drs. Engle, Kamboj and Ali.
   2. Faculty expressed interest in knowing the timeline for current construction projects on campus, including the expansion of the CSRB animal care facility, and for walkways.
   3. Faculty expressed concern about losing faculty to the VA, as they have shown a strong interest in hiring their own faculty.

**Adjournment:** Move to adjourn by P. Winsauer, seconded by M. Levitzky, meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer Lentz.