



**School of Medicine Faculty Assembly  
Minutes  
Thursday, September 4, 2025  
4:00pm-5:00pm  
Zoom Meeting**

In Attendance: A. Abreo, Z. Ali, G. Athas, A. Augustus-Wallace, A. Bennett, J. Berthelot, J. Calandria, J. Cameron, T. Castellano, M. Cook, J. Crabtree, J. D'Souza, L. Davis, J. Gardner, S. Garner, M. Harrington, J. Hart, S. Kamboj, M. Korah-Sedgwick (proxy for J. Hart), C. Leblanc, N. Loganantharaj, L. Marrero, L. McGee, J. Patrick, L. Pelaez, P. Prasad, S. Primeaux, M. Reinoso, T. Reske, J. Schoen, L. Simon Peter, A. Smith, L. Tanner-Sanders, C. Taylor, V. Vaitaitis, E. Wisner, A. Wolfe, R. Zambrano

Absent: J. Patrick

**Welcome and call to order at 4:00pm by President Reinoso**

**Guest: Dr. Jessica Rivera-IRB Chair**

IRB Status: Reminder: IRB Board Members are our peers/colleagues (volunteers). Mitigation/Improvements: **1.** The IRB Board is now engaged properly in this review process; **2.** Placement of Adequate Staffing (in progress)-**Goal**: Six IRB Analysts; Currently-Three permanent IRB Analysts & two temporary IRB Analysts have been hired to handle the workflow of approximately 30 applications/wk. and reduce the backlog; **3.** Backlog has been reduced significantly; **4.** Additional rules, requirements, along with additional questions/information in the submission process are necessary for compliance-please follow the rationale, although such questions/information may not have been requested previously. **5.** Dr. Rivera requested that all faculty communicate with professionalism and respect with the IRB. **6.** Please resume contacting the IRB either via phone or email (IRBOffice@lsuhsc.edu) with any concerns, here & ready to support.

**\*Note: Technological Difficulties:** There was an interruption (loss of connection) during Dr. Rivera's presentation, resulting in our FA President to continue the meeting with the Approval of the Minutes and the beginning of her Executive Committee Report, which was interrupted by Dr. Rivera's welcomed return to the meeting during the midpoint of Dr. Reinoso's Report. Dr. Rivera completed her comments, followed by Dr. Reinoso's completion of her Executive Committee Report.

**Approval of the August 2025 Minutes:** Moved by Dr. Kamboj, and seconded by Dr. Bennett, **Vote:** None opposed. Approval of Minutes: Passed. Meeting minutes were/are posted on SOM Faculty Assembly Webpage.

[https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/faculty\\_assembly/FA%20Minutes%206-5-25%20final.pdf](https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/faculty_assembly/FA%20Minutes%206-5-25%20final.pdf)

**Reports:**

- a. **Executive Committee (meeting w/Dr. DiCarlo):** (Reinoso): Five items of importance:
  1. NCI Designation: Dr. Douglas Lowy, MD, Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) presented. Institutional Leaders w/State leaders and representatives were also invited, to better understand the level of support including financial investments necessary for this initiative; expression of support for this LSUHSC-NO pursuit of

the NCI designation continues and increases. As part of this effort, additional staffing is ongoing- a new Chief of Hematology and Oncology (HemoOnco) has been hired-Dr. Patrick Mau, from Penn. State-Hershey.

2. Construction: a) MEB Labs are expected to open in 6 to 7 months; b) the walkway from the CSRB to CALS plans & construction underway; c) CALS-Simulation Lab. Space-Philanthropic donor was/is sought for upgrades, if this does not materialize, the school is willing to support this effort. Other schools may begin use of these labs, the schools may have to pay for the “actors,” the SOM will continue its support of its staff already present. Dr. DeBlieux and his team have been awarded an AMA Grant to develop the use of A.I. (artificial intelligence) in medical education.

3. LCME: Dr. English reported that our SOM is well-prepared for the October site visit. There are two concerns/areas from our students’ satisfaction surveys: a) financial aid; and b) career planning.

4. Basic Science Reorganization: Submission postponed until October 2025-Board of Supervisors (**BOS**) Meeting: Reasons: New names of the merged Basic Science Departments must be finalized prior to BOS Submission; task forces have been generated to finalize the new names; new names reported: The Department of Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology (MGI) and The Department of Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Therapeutics (PBT). Reported reason for merger: To lessen the number of departmental chairpersons to be recruited.

5. LCMC Contracts: LCMC to support the LSUHSC-NO GME with more funding for faculty support. The new income plan is slated to determine the percentage for different areas, and thereby correctly represent RVU productivity, thereby highlighting the national RVU benchmarks, where faculty can earn more.

Question: Regarding employee/faculty raises; Response: No question to Dr. DiCarlo regarding Sept. checks/raises because of distributed email to explain next steps.

**b. Administrative Council** (Augustus-Wallace): **Guest**-Dr. Rivera: Presented and shared the same information that she provided during this FA meeting earlier today. **Dr. Taylor**: Acknowledged and thanked both Drs. Augustus-Wallace and Pelaez for their two-years of service representing the FA on the SOM Administrative Council, excited to welcome the new FA Representatives in October 2025; **2**. Announced that there will be an announcement soon regarding the Ob/Gyn Chairperson; **3**. Instructor-Track has been approved at the Administrative level, to be aligned with the updated/new PM-23 in the Faculty Handbook, primarily will be applicable to the Basic Science Educator Track; **4**. Promotion & Tenure-**a**. Streamlining this process to ensure that corrections have been made prior to packets’ arrival in the SOM Dean’s Office, for example, submission of faculty CVs to be submitted first; **b**. Promotion-Letters of Recommendation must align with the academic rank which is sought during promotion; **5**. Mentoring Opportunities for Faculty (Asst. Deans, Drs. Michelle Moore and Amy Creel): Committees based on: **a**. academic rank; and **b**. non-academic rank (Chairs, Dr. Jennifer Lentz and Jay Mussell): [https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/faculty\\_affairs/faculty\\_mentoring\\_program.asp](https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/faculty_affairs/faculty_mentoring_program.asp); Faculty Speed Mentoring Event (09172025); **Dr. English**: LCME Prep. Sessions ongoing; **Dr. DiCarlo**: **1**. Basic Science Reconstruction: Basic Science Reconstruction Proposal and Centers of Excellence Proposals postponed; **a**. the Basic Science Reconstruction-due to lack of the finalization of the name changes of the Basic Sciences Departments; Result: Task forces assigned to finalize the name changes for resubmission to October 2025 BOS Meeting; and **b**. the Centers of Excellence-due to the requirement of separate proposals, thereby one proposal for Computational Biology and Data Science, and one proposal for Basic Science Education-expected submission of both proposals, Spring 2026; **2**. NCI Designation: Dr. Douglas Lowy, MD, Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI)

presented-went well (same comments reported from the aforementioned FA Executive Committee Meeting Report); **3. Construction Completion**: **a.** Walkway-CSR to CALS-Summer 2026, and **b.** MEB-March 2026; **4. LCMC Contracts**-meeting were stalled due to Mickens' departure, however, meetings have resumed.

**c. Faculty Senate** (Cameron): Aug. 2025 Meeting-1. Thanked Outgoing Senators and Welcomed Incoming Senators; 2. According to Bylaws, Senators Proxys should arise from the Faculty Assembly, possibly consideration for electing an alternate Assemblyperson to fulfill this role/necessity, when it arises; 3. Updated/new PM-23 reflects approved Instructor-track, which is to be included in the academic rank in the Faculty Handbook-any additional changes, contact Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace, who leads this effort on the Faculty Senate.

Question regarding Proxy: Consideration for a change of the bylaws; Response: Yes, welcome to attend FS Meetings and to bring forth discussion-Faculty Senate meetings are open to the public meetings, held second Tuesday of each month, 3:30 PM to 5 PM; welcome to attend.

## Old Business

None

## Call for New Business

### FA President Reinoso-Stated her FA Goals

1. Improved bridge of communication
2. Bulleted comments from each FA Meeting to address both Basic Scientists and Clinicians concerns
3. Following each FA Meeting, she (Reinoso, FA-President), Crabtree (FA President-Elect), Augustus-Wallace (FA Secretary), and Bennett & Patrick (FA-SOM Administrative Council) will remain to identify these bulleted comments.

### FA Representatives on SOM Committees

FA President Reinoso encouraged FA Representatives to submit information/concerns from their respective SOM Committees for discussion during FA Meetings. Dr. Augustus-Wallace is creating this list of colleagues from the SOM Faculty Affairs Website.

[https://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/faculty\\_affairs/Committees.aspx](https://www.medschool.lsuhsu.edu/faculty_affairs/Committees.aspx)

**Adjourn:** Motion by Dr. Kamboj, 5:27pm