

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly
Minutes
February 3rd, 2021

Attendance: Alahari, Suresh; Ali, Zee; Augustus-Wallace, Allison; Cameron, Jennifer; Crabtree, Judy; Creel, Amy; Gardner, Jason; Gidday, Jeffrey; Guidry, Jessie; Gupta, Raegan; Hart, Jennifer; Holman, Stacy; Houser, Marcella; Hunt, John; Kamboj, Sanjay; LeBlanc, Colleen; Levitzky, Michael; Nair, Navya; Prasad, Pinki; Primeaux, Stefany; Reilly, Leslie; Sarkar, Shubho; Stuke, Lance; Tanner, LaNasha; Taylor, Christopher; Wisner, Elizabeth; Wu, Chunlai; Yue, Xinping

Proxy: Felipe, D (Yue); Prasad, P (Guidry)

Absent: Gomez, Ricardo; Happel, Kyle; James, Ernest; LeBlanc, Dana; Olister, Staci; Surcouf, Jeffrey; Zambrano, Regina

Called to order: (motion Levitzky, second Hunt) 4:00PM

1. Approval of the January meeting minutes
2. Guest Speaker – Dr. Steve Nelson
 - a. Finances
 - i. Dr. Nelson has asked Departmental Heads to evaluate their own budgets with a focus on being proactive for anticipated changes as it relates to COVID.
 - ii. State budget is forecasted to have a 900 million shortfall due to decrease in sales tax revenue and the price of oil and gas.
 - iii. Not anticipating any budget cuts so far.
 - iv. The Health Care Network is being evaluated for a management change. This might include LCMC since they are our main academic partner.
 - b. Three nursing students were injured crossing Tulane Ave, and the construction of the bridge has been approved. This project will help provide safe passage to students and staff crossing in the future.
 - c. Recruitment
 - i. Search underway for the LSU LCMC Cancer Center Director. The candidate will build a cancer service line across the LCMC system, and will be an LSU position. Interviews are underway.
 - ii. Medicine's new Head is Cynthia Brown from UAB; starting in May.
 - iii. Brad Bailey will head Psychiatry; starting in May/June.
 - iv. Anesthesia's new Head is Richard Pino; starting in May.
 - v. Anatomy and Cell Biology Head and Family Medicine Head positions will be advertised soon.
 - vi. The Department of Biochemistry was considered for dissolution, but instead is being re-evaluated by the current Interim Head Hari Koul. In 6 months he will present a formal plan for moving forward, and Dr. Nelson will decide how to proceed from there.

- vii. Translational Oncology Department has been in development for a number of years, and is intended to be an alternative department for faculty appointments for Cancer Center members. It is mainly for basic science researchers at this point, but ideas are being considered for clinical faculty as well.
- viii. Hiring restrictions are still in place, but Dr. Nelson can override those restrictions as need arises.
- ix. Dr. Nelson is on the search committee for the LSU President. First interviews will start in March with the hope of having a final candidate in place by July 1st.
- d. Vaccinations – Clinicians were able to get vaccinations with their hospital affiliations. Larry Hollier appealed to LDH for 7,000 vaccines for all other LSUHSC employees. As of today, over 6,000 individuals have been vaccinated on our campus. We have received another 7,000 vaccine doses.
- e. Hospitals are reporting less COVID infections over the last few weeks, with Region 1 (New Orleans area) reporting the lowest numbers.
- f. Construction
 - i. CSRB construction flooding repairs are scheduled to be completed soon.
 - ii. Student Housing building is underway, with piles and foundation.
 - iii. MEB renovations on the 1st floor is expected to be completed within 6 months.
 - iv. The Lion’s Building 2nd floor entry was renovated in conjunction with the installation of conduit for electricity.
 - v. The Animal Care bridge between CSRB and MEB will be installed within the month.
 - vi. The former Interim Hospital (ILH) renovation is moving forward with expected completion by February/March 2022.
 - vii. A hotel/conference center has been planned for years, but there is no movement of late.
 - viii. 1542 Tulane is still owned by LSU and new owners have not been identified; former interested parties have bowed out. Dr. Nelson is interested in selling/renting the structure for the purpose of generating revenue to support our academic mission.
- g. Funding Levels are continually evaluated for all basic science departments. As an aggregate all basic science departments are at least 50% funded. However, recruitment can only focus on funded investigators only, unless there is an outstanding need.

3. Reports:

- a. Executive Committee – Did not meet
- b. SOM Administrative Council - Judy Crabtree gave an update
 - i. Dr. Timothy Fair introduction – Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion
Dr. Fair will be hosting 2 town halls/school - one for students and one for faculty
SOM is Feb 17 at noon for faculty/staff; February 23 at noon for students
SOGS is Feb 24 at noon for faculty/staff; February 25 at noon for students
 - ii. Dr. DiCarlo is developing a new framework and a new set of guidelines for promotion; updated promotions criteria.

- iii. Dr. Backes discussed the Research Café; Fern Tsien will add new workshops for Biosketch, Budgets, and justifications.
- iv. Dr. Lazarus
 - 1. The Camp Tiger Virtual Auction Mar12 7:30-9pm. Live stream at that time and there will also be a website for online bidding.
 - 2. USMLE has discontinued the requirement for Step 2CS exam.
 - 3. Students are allowed to do one away rotation.
- v. Up to 500 vaccinations per day are currently being performed. Please bring your consent form and vaccination card with you for your second does.
- vi. COVID testing is continuing with all operations formally being located 5th floor MEB.
- vii. Planning to provide updates on an annual basis on diversity metrics (including women, Asian, black/African American, Hispanic/Latino for applicants, acceptance, matriculants, enrollment, fellows, and faculty).
- viii. Dean Nelson: they're discussing some sort of early admission program where students are accepted into our school after their second year of college, then after they pass their 3 and 4th years with appropriate grades, they matriculate to directly LSUHSC. Details to be worked out.
- ix. McLean - Each member of the admissions committee will sign this policy each year and will be required to notify admissions chair if there is a conflict of interest with any particular candidate. In this is included general confidentiality clause.
- c. Faculty Senate
 - i. Ken Boe gave updates on website changes.
 - ii. Dean Nelson gave updates on progresses in several areas, which were duplicated in our current FA meeting.

4. Old Business:

- a. Historically-excluded Faculty and DEI Taskforce
 - i. Will resume meetings after holiday break
 - ii. Registration is now open for the 2021 NADOHE Annual Conference; "Dismantling Structural Racism: Transforming Higher Education"; a link will be sent to delegates to register
- b. Faculty Assembly Awards
 - i. Navya Nair was nominated for an award, but is disqualified because of her service in Faculty Assembly. Congratulations!
 - ii. 7 nominations for Junior Faculty, 3 for Mentoring, 5 for Community Service, and 6 for Service to the Institution. Eligibility to be determined. Packets will be distributed soon.

5. Call for New Business:

- a. A suggestion was made to add a Faculty Assembly Award for an individual who makes strides toward Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

6. Adjourn: (motion Levitzky, second Hunt) 4:59PM