

School of Medicine Faculty Assembly
Minutes
May 6th, 2021

Attendance: Alahari, Suresh; Cameron, Jennifer; Crabtree, Judy; Creel, Amy; Gardner, Jason; Gidday, Jeff; Happel, Kyle; Hart, Jennifer; Holman, Stacy; Houser, Marcella; Kamboj, Sanjay; LeBlanc, Colleen; LeBlanc, Dana; Levitzky, Michael; Nair, Navya; Prasad, Pinki; Primeaux, Stefany; Reilly, Leslie, Shubho; Surcouf, Jeffrey; Tanner, LaNasha; Taylor, Christopher; Wisner, Elizabeth; Wu, Chunlai; Yue, Xinping
Proxy: Ali, Zee (Primeaux); Guidry, Jessie (Gidday);
Absent: Augustus-Wallace, Allison; Felipe, Dania; Gomez, Ricardo; Gupta, Raegan; Hunt, John; James, Ernest; Olister, Staci; Stuke, Lance; Zambrano, Regina

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

1. Approval of the April meeting minutes (Kamboj and Levitzky)
2. Guest Speaker – Ritu Bhalla, who spoke on the COVID crisis in India
Dr. Bhalla provided an update on the latest COVID case numbers and other stats for India
Links for donations, etc., have been sent out; also available from Leslie Capo
3. Reports:
 - a. Executive Committee – update by Stefany
 - i. Commencement is May 12 at 11am at the Conv Ctr; limited attendance (invite only); no LSUHSC-wide ceremony this year, but will be videorecorded
 - ii. New Chancellor’s Memorandum will address faculty/staff ‘dress code’; having this codified will provide a legitimate reason to address concerns; will go to Senate for review; possible exceptions for Saints Day apparel, Hawaiian shirt Fridays, etc.
 - iii. Administrative Proposals
 - Centralized Clinical Trials Office (per Dr. Nelson, this office will assist in grant writing and regulatory and compliance issues associated with clinical trials, critical to moving us forward in the clinical research domain).
 - Post-Tenure Review Policy (per Dr. Nelson, this will put in place a policy for faculty that currently have tenure but receive an unsatisfactory review in 2 of the last 3 years, this will lead to review by committee and up the administrative chain).
 - iv. LSU President Search – 3 candidates under consideration at this time; recorded interviews available for viewing; announcement expected today
 - v. Construction Update

- MEB 1st floor – will be ready by Fall 2021
- Student Housing – will be ready Fall 2022
- Atrium Coffee Area – renovating floor (again?); coffee temporarily relocated to the library
- Bridge over Tulane Ave – starting ‘soon’
- Elevated walkway between CSRB-MEB is ongoing

b. SOM Administrative Council (update by Kyle)

- i. Welcome Dr. Brown, new Chair of Department Medicine
- ii. Vote to approve graduation for School of Medicine class
- iii. Hope is to return to in-person learning for SOM classes this fall; meeting next week to decide
- iv. Update of COVID rules and regs in progress; SOM cannot require vaccination of students in general because we’re under EUA, but some activities (e.g., gym, volunteering in homeless clinic) may require vaccine status
- v. Dr. DiCarlo updated on new leadership positions: Dr. Richard Pino to chair Anesthesiology; Dr. Ron Bailey to chair Psychiatry starting June 1; Chair identified for Cell Bio & Anatomy, will be announced soon; will send out invites for in-person interviews for Chair of Family Medicine (3 expected)
- vi. Dr. DiCarlo also provided update on standardizing faculty review/evaluation mechanism; with HR turnover of late, it’s currently unclear what form this will take
- vii. Voting (by survey monkey) for advanced rank appointments of two chaired positions related to viral oncology (John West [tenure track] and Charles Wood [tenture]) in the new Dept of Interdisciplinary Oncology; Dr. Ochoa can answer questions on the new efforts these individuals will be involved with
- viii. Dr. Winsauer spoke about internal SOM grant proposals under review
- ix. SOM is currently performing comprehensive department evaluations, starting with basic science departments; MIP is now being reviewed. Clinical department reviews to follow. Feedback to date has been positive.
- x. Fern Tsien spoke on student research efforts: Very popular; currently 45 med students looking for summer research internships, 25 for research electives at the VA, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, etc. All research to be presented at end-of-summer forum. Of note, LCME expressed concern about the low level of med student research; if you have opportunity to host a student, please let Dr. Tsien know.
- xi. Women’s Health Research Consortium: Dr. Peacock spoke on how this represents a large platform for medical students to perform research; Dr. Zura mentioned efforts on Orthopedic department’s initiatives in this regard.

- xii. Dr. McLean (Assoc Dean for Admissions) – final meeting today; interviewed 500 candidates this year (applications up 18%); 180 currently holding; happy with the quality of candidates applying.
- xiii. Dr. Roig at the VA relayed excitement about increased visits by federal officials, in an effort to return to 1A complexity status as a result of enhanced clinical operation (return of many LSU surgical lines), and increased federally funded research for LSU faculty members.
- xiv. Announced that Dr. Joe Moerschbaecher (Vice Chair of Academic Affairs for the last 23 years) is stepping down; adding “and Research” to position title for replacement (“Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research”)
- xv. Final stages of selection/announcement of LSUHSC LCMC Cancer Director
- xvi. State budget update: According to Keith Schroth, no anticipated cuts, but no allocation of state general funds to clinical departments – Dr. Nelson will follow up on the latter; potential for raises still under discussion; struggles with LSU Healthcare Network to maintain proficiency in evolving healthcare marketplace in NO area, and likely will have to align itself with either Ochsner or LCMC, or both, in the next year or two.
- xvii. Residency recruitments for 2021-2022 will involve virtual interviews, not in-person; possibly campus visits can be arranged for small groups.

c. Faculty Senate (update by Stefany)

- i. Met on April 13
- ii. Dr. Hollier was the visitor, who brought Mr. Colletta (Chief of Staff) with him, who addressed the Senate in response to questions sent to Dr. Hollier in advance
- iii. Vaccination rate: Varies by school (SOM~60%); goal is 80% for LSUHSC (if not reached, then the plan is to begin surveillance testing)
- iv. Plans to keep campus COVID-safe: Mask mandate, hand sanitizers, 500 contractors vaccinated
- v. Hybrid approach to work? No. Currently at 75% time-on-campus, and all campuses expected to be back to 100% by fall.
- vi. Use CARES Act for raises? No, not the purpose of these monies, and monies have already been allocated. HSC has money in reserve for potentially providing COLA raises
- vii. Equality in salaries? No; salary survey in 2017 resulted in salaries being brought up to the appropriate salary level
- viii. Salary compression for long-term employees: Need more data on this, and doing so requires getting HR staffing under control
- ix. State Budget – “doesn’t look good”; cuts not expected, but concerned about what will happen after federal COVID relief funds are depleted

- x. Morale on campus: No knowledge of such an issue
- xi. Students allowed to park in garage now, as a result of COVID and construction
- xii. Integrated post-secondary education annual data system report is available, but we have not received anything yet
- xiii. Board of Regents requested Title IX compliance reports from each LSU campus; we have submitted ours

4. Old Business:

- a. Historically-excluded Faculty and DEI Taskforce
 - i. No meeting since last update, and Allison out today, so no formal update to present

5. New Business:

- a. Emails for nominations for Faculty Assembly delegates to serve for the 20/21 to 23/24 period; due on 5/13. Elections to follow. 21 self-nominated candidates (4 basic science and 17 clinical candidates, to fill 4 basic science positions and 8 clinical faculty positions)

6. Adjourn: (motion Kamboj, second Levitzky) 4:53 PM

Respectfully submitted,
-Jeff Gidday