McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Faculty Senate

Thursday, February 15, 2024 l 4:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm with a quorum of members present.

1. Housekeeping

Attendance rules (attend a minimum of 60% of the monthly meetings).

It is important for dial-in attendees to email Valerie Guerrero with their call-in number so that each caller can be properly identified.

Please remain muted unless speaking; the chat will be monitored regularly for questions.

If you know you will have an absence, please contact Valerie Guerrero so it may be excused.

1. Approval of Minutes (January 2024)

There were no corrections to the minutes from the January 2024 meeting; the minutes were accepted to the final record as written.

1. Reports
2. UTHealth Houston Update – Dr. Kevin Morano, Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs, UTHealth Houston
* Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Review

Currently, several months into FY2024, the total budget is $2.4 billion.

The main revenue comes from clinical revenue, including practices and affiliation agreements. Other smaller sections include grants, state funding, tuition, fees, etc.

* Philanthropy $534.4 million overall revenue, from a campaign running from September 2015 until January 2023.

The total market value of our philanthropy and endowments is around $898.1 million.

* Research has overall growth, with 1786 grants totaling over $400 million.

The biggest chunk is from the NIH, with a total of 448 awards totaling more than $140 million.

* Enrollment of students is growing, with several schools at full capacity, like the Medical and Dental Schools. UTHealth Houston has more than 5000 students enrolled at this time.
* We also have new leadership:

GSBS Dean: Alejandro Aballay, PharmD, PhD

Neurosurgery Department Chair: Jacques Morcos, MD

* School of Biomedical Informatics, now with a new donation and a new name, is the McWilliams School of Biomedical Informatics.
* Cizik School of Nursing was recently ranked as #1 in Texas and #18 in the US.
* School of Dentistry has a mobile van to help expand statewide dental services.
* The School of Public Health is getting a new building on the south campus, between Bertner and Old Spanish Trail.

The expected completion date is in 2026, and construction is currently underway.

* New School of Behavioral Health Sciences

They will offer more than 35 degree and certificate programs, but 6 programs are currently preparing curriculum and leadership to start the school.

* TMC3 Helix Park is continuing in growth, with new school buildings and park development resembling a helix as a connector of campuses
* Still visible: the Many Faces of UTHealth campaign- spending is more dedicated to billboards and imaging related to women and child health this FY.
* Trends in Academic Healthcare, measured with a degree of programmatic and economic integration.

UTHealth Houston was traditionally on the lower end of the integration spectrum with joint marketing and affiliation agreements with other entities such as Memorial Hermann Hospital. The current trend is toward higher degrees of integration, including EMR integrations, long-term affiliation contracts, and the potential for a joint hospital.

* Strategic initiatives for Harris Health

Harris Health is getting $1.6 billion to fund a new hospital for LBJ. This bond approval was passed in the November election. Construction over the next 4-6 years will increase our county care.

* UTP expansion to Bellaire Station

We currently lease the 3rd and 4th floors but are aiming to majorly invest in imaging and potentially looking into purchasing and owning the building as a multi-specialty hub.

1. New Business
2. Revisions and vote to accept MMS Bylaws – Dr. Nancy McNiel, Senior Associate Dean, Administrative Affairs
* MMS Bylaws require review every 5 years and votes from several entities to approve revisions.
* Faculty Senate approval will send these revisions to the President for review.
* Most of the changes are editorial in nature; the document in its entirety was provided to senators.
* The role of the Dean of Education has been included throughout the document, as appropriate.
* The selection and roles of faculty senate officers have been clarified to conform to current practice.
* Throughout the document, language regarding voting has been added and clarified, including electronic voting and virtual meeting attendance.
* Quorum for a meeting of the general faculty was changed to thirty (30) members. This matches a recent change to the MSRDP Bylaws and is intended to ensure a quorum can be achieved.

This is the most significant change, as it was 10% of faculty previously, which is difficult to obtain if a vote is necessary. However, there are concerns about overall diversity when meetings or votes occur.

One major change is that votes would be deferred from the general faculty to the Faculty Senate, as the senate is a comprehensive representation of the faculty and is voted upon by respective departments.

* The Diversity and Inclusion Committee was eliminated to conform with the current structure and in compliance with state law.
* Language regarding amendment of the Compensation Plan was removed from the Compensation Committee section of the Bylaws since the language is already included in the Compensation Plan document.
* The SEPC section was corrected to confirm that the committee reports decisions, not recommendations.
* In the Medical Peer Review Committee section, language was removed regarding the process for changes to those committees’ bylaws. This language is included in each Medical Peer Review Committee’s Bylaws, which are appended to the MMS Bylaws document.

A motion was made for these MMS Bylaws revisions to be approved by the Faculty Senate, with no further questions raised for discussion.

Voting took place electronically in the Faculty Senate, with a quorum present. The Senate voted, with 97% of senators accepting these revisions and moving these Bylaws revisions onto the desk of the President.

1. Population Health and Implementation Science at UTHealth Houston – Dr. Maria Fernandez, Vice President of Population Health and Implementation Science at UTHealth Houston; and Dr. Martin Blakely, Professor, Division of General & Thoracic Pediatric Surgery, MMS
* Population Health, defined as the health outcomes of a group of individuals including the distributions of outcomes within these groups.
* UTSystem has a Population Health Strategic Plan, as well as UTHealth Houston

Both focus on areas such as data sharing, cancer prevention and screening, mental health services, and vulnerable and underserved populations.

* UT-MDA Population Health Initiative- Collaborative Projects Fund

Provided funding of quick start research as seed funding. This helped establish priorities and future grants and looks to impact overall funding and grant growth.

* Population Health and Implementation Science (PHIS) at UTHealth Houston is a small group aiming to foster and support multidisciplinary growth and achieve increased population health outcomes and health equity

Over the last 8 months, PHIS has begun their strategic plan with assessing the environment through listening tours, as well as engagement with health professionals already doing population research.

PHIS has created a 3-point plan to help with collaboration and coordination across UTHealth Houston; focusing on promoting existing research, improving research through infrastructure, and expanding research through collaboration.

PHIS aims to act as a single office that other departments and schools can reach out to, in order to cooperate and access diverse populations.

There is also a UTHealth Houston Population Health Council, serving as advisors within the department for younger faculty and large-scale population health research.

* Institute for Implementation Science (IIS) formation at UTHealth Houston, aiming to advance dissemination and implementation research and practice through transdisciplinary, translational, team science.

Founded by co-directors, Dr. Maria Fernandez and Dr. Bijal Balasubramanian

Implementation Science being defined as the study of methods to promote the adoption and integration of evidence-based practices, interventions and policies into routine health practice.

Ultimately, IIS aims to help by identifying factors, adapting, finding strategies, de-implementation intervention and disseminating and scaling up science initiatives.

IIS also aims to create infrastructure and new Dissemination and Implementation Core (D&I Core), with many implementation studies already underway.

* Dr. Blakely spoke on UTH IIS and integration with external and internal organizations to create and improve significance, innovation and impact of research.

Please contact Martin.I.Blakely@uth.tmc.edu for collaboration with the Institute for Implementation Science to increase overall impact of research with our medical school.

* New Graduate Certificate Program in Dissemination and Implementation Science

15-credit hour certificate with a focus on dissemination and implementation to students and health professionals

For registration information please look further at:

<https://www.uth.edu/implementation-science/our-work/training/>

1. Announcements
2. University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston EHR Experience Survey 2024: <https://klasresearch.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBVpdUWIXUhoi3Q>

The survey will close this Friday, February 16th.

1. Daniel E. Lieberman, PhD, will present the 2024 Harry E. Bovay, Jr. Lecture at 11 a.m. March 1 in SRB 104 (Beth Robertson Auditorium at IMM).
2. 2024 MMS Research Retreat, March 5, 2024, 8:45am-4:15pm. An opportunity to learn more about research on campus and the purpose is to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. Registration-

<https://med.uth.edu/researchaffairs/registration-is-now-open-annual-medical-school-research-retreat-march-5-2024/>

1. The John P. and Katherine G. McGovern Medical Student Research Award-2024 Spring Senior Research Day, March 6, 2024, 12pm-1pm, MSB Leather Lounge
2. Adjournment at 5:29 pm

Next Meeting: March 21 at 4:30pm

Dr. Summer Ott- Chair

Dr. Erin Fox-Chair-Elect

Kathryn Leal, MS, CGC- Secretary

Dr. Matthew Baker-Secretary-Elect

Dr. Georgene Hergenroeder- Past Chair 2022-2023