McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Houston Faculty Senate

Thursday, March 21, 2024 l 4:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32pm 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 and the chat will be monitored regularly for questions.

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

1. Approval of Minutes (January 2024)

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

1. Reports
2. Faculty Affairs Update – Nahid Rianon, MD, DrPH, Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs

Faculty Affairs Office Individual Promotion Plan (IPP)

* Individualized promotion plans with guidance from the Faculty Affairs office.
* If a faculty member is up for promotion next academic year, it is highly recommended they arrange an individual meeting.
* In these meetings, preparatory materials and CV are reviewed to help highlight key information for promotion.
* Every department has an internal deadline for these, but it is recommended to come in as early as possible.
* Ahead of the meeting, faculty should submit a current CV in accepted MMS formatting.

MAPP program

* Group mentoring program where 6-10 junior faculty are paired with senior faculty to learn about academic growth.
* Emails should be coming from your department chair or administrator at the start of the academic year.
* Please reach out to Dr. Rianon with questions about MAPP or setting an appointment for IPP:

Nahid.J.Rianon@uth.tmc.edu

1. Interfaculty Council Update – Erin Fox, PhD, Faculty Senate Chair-Elect
* IFC meeting held on 2/21/24
* One speaker, David Fanucchi (University Communication Specialist, IT)
* Plans to update the UTHealth Houston IT website, and the team is looking for faculty/staff feedback on the information we would like to see on the overall IT website.
* IFC members cited the Rice IT website to be a good model, containing tabs or buttons for common activities in plain, non-technical language.
* Any additional thoughts and updates can be sent to IFC President: Erin.E.Fox@uth.tmc.edu
1. New Business
2. Committee on Committees Nominations – Georgene Hergenroeder, PhD, Faculty Senate Past Chair
* The Committee on Committees (CoC) is looking for nominations.
* The CoC is responsible for:
1. Advising the Dean concerning the membership criteria, number of members, length of membership terms and charge of the standing committees
2. Making annual recommendations on the membership of those committees.
3. Recommending to the Dean the appointment of chairs for the standing committees
4. Ensuring balanced committee membership recommendations to the Dean
5. Overseeing mandatory term limits for membership on committees
6. Providing guidance as requested by standing committee members on any matter related to the effectiveness of that committee.
* Current representatives from Faculty Senate have some upcoming term expirations. Terms Expiring in 2024

Brooks Cash, M.D., Internal Medicine (22-23-24)

Susan Pacheco, M.D., Pediatrics (22-23-24)

* Terms Expiring in 2025

Barbara Orlando, M.D., Ph.D., Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine (23-24-25)

Olivia Dziadek, M.D., Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences (23-24-25)

* Additionally, Faculty Senate presidents become CoC Chairs as they roll off of Faculty Senate, making the progressing chairs as follows:

Georgene Hergenroeder, Ph.D., Neurosurgery – CoC Chair (22-23-24)

Summer Ott, Psy.D., Orthopedic Surgery – CoC Chair-elect (23-24-25)

Erin Fox, Ph.D., Center for Translational Injury Research – Future CoC Chair-elect (24-25-26)

* Currently, we need two new members for 2024-2025 Academic Year
* Nominated faculty must:
1. Be active Senators at the time of election or re-election to the COC.
2. Serve a three-year term (2024, 2025, 2026)
3. Be available to meet in person for 2-3 meetings in June and July
* Self-nominations are welcome.
* Please Email nominations to both:

Georgene.W.Hergenroeder@uth.tmc.edu

Valerie.Z.Guerrero@uth.tmc.edu

1. Clinical Trials Resource Center: Resources Available for Researchers – Dr. Sujatha Sridhar, MBBS, MCE, Associate Vice President, Research Compliance
* Ways the Clinical Trials Resource Center (CTRC) can benefit your research:
* Pre-study Activities
* IRB Reciprocity including:

Protocol development, consent documents, IRB submission, IND/IDE application, Clinical trials registration, CRF templates, data safety monitoring board, recruitment plan, e-consent set-up, Docusign and REDCap.

* Some activities not done by CTRC, but can be directed to correct source for:

Coverage analysis, contract negotiation, ancillary reviews (DII Review, Path Review, FASTR Review, Dept Review, and MHH/HH Review) and EPIC research modules.

* During Study Activities:

IRB problem reporting, FDA annual reports, maintaining ct.gov records, recruitment and retention, DSMB meetings, maintaining study documents, invoicing and payments, quality assurance audits

* After Study Activities:

IRB study closures, clinical trials and results upload, FDA final report, IP disposition, records retention, and study account closure.

* The CTRC office also has information on Mandatory Training and Continuing Education including:

CITI Human Subjects and Good Clinical Practice, New Investigator Development Program, Clinical Research Curriculum, UTHealth Houston Courses as Non-degree Students, Investigator Responsibility Briefing, Responsible Conduct of Research, and Research Conflicts of Interest.

As well as, online options for some development education including:

CITI Training – Online

Coordinator Forum – Monthly Synchronous - hybrid

Coordinator Orientation – Online

Consent Training – Online

Clinical Research Coordinator – WTP – Online

* Please reach out to any of the CTRC faculty/staff with further questions:

Associate vice president: Sujatha.Sridhar@uth.tmc.edu

Assistant director: Elizabeth.M.Gendel@uth.tmc.edu

Senior research compliance specialist: Shwetha.Pazhoor@uth.tmc.edu

Research compliance specialist: Jessica.L.Martinez@uth.tmc.edu

1. Provider Task Force – Summer D. Ott, PsyD, Faculty Senate Chair
* Known challenges in decreasing provider burnout include:

Efforts to decrease provider burnout and improve the patient experience remain segregated in different areas of the health care system.

Superficial solutions- “window dressing strategies” instead of fundamental organizational change.

Processes may not always include frontline providers or consider the complexity of care delivery.

* Patient experience focuses on how patients experience key aspects of their care.
* Why focus on patient experience?

Research has shown better healthcare outcomes, patient retention, and additional revenue.

* Patient Experience Team- UT Physicians

Designed to provide services to clinics which include setting standards, assisting in service recovery, and advancing the reputation of UT Physicians across all patients and other consumers.

* Sharon Messimer-Director of Patient Experience at UT Physicians
* Patient Experience Outreach Advisor assigned to each MMS department.
* Team members are dedicated to:

Engaging patients in sharing their experience, responding to reviews, building brand awareness/increased web visibility, and provider education.

* But what about Provider Experience?
* A well-cared-for provider translates to better patient care.
* Provider Burnout is a national issue.

2022- US Surgeon General calls for collective action to address health care provider burnout

* Provider Burnout is defined as:

Feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion

Increased mental distance from one’s job or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one’s job

Reduced professional efficiency

* Nearly half of all physicians report that they suffer from burnout, citing too many bureaucratic tasks as the main reason.

Providers devote more than 2/3 of their time managing records.

Discomfort may also arise from fear of being held accountable for conditions they cannot change, asymmetric rewards, and unrealistic patient expectations.

Solutions to burnout are system level remedies.

* Goal of Proposed Task Force is to identify methods to effectively enhance the experience of the provider.
* Contact Dr. Ott at summer.d.ott@uth.tmc.edu by 4/01/2024 with your interest in serving as a member.

A co-chair will be identified

Specialty representation is important, both clinical and non-clinical.

1. Announcements
2. Congratulations to MMS faculty, Jennifer Swails, MD, for her induction into the Shine Academy. She was recognized for teaching excellence and enhancing health science education.
3. Adjournment at 5:17 pm

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024 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