

MINUTES OF THE WSU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE FACULTY SENATE
Meeting May 18, 2017

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dr. Meert at 3:35 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the previous faculty senate meeting on March 16, 2017 were distributed and approved.
3. **Dean's Report, Dean Jack D. Sobel, M.D.**
 - a. Dr. Sobel reported on the recent LCME site visit. He noted that the team of highly qualified reviewers were impressed with the school's change in attitude and how we addressed the previously noted deficiencies. He credited the students, faculty and administrators who helped make the visit go well. Among the issues that were important to impress upon the reviewers was the financial commitment of the University to the SOM. In addition to the recent continuing investment that President Wilson committed to the SOM, it was helpful that the University's financial situation has improved significantly of late; he further highlighted some of the positive improvements in the University. Dr. Sobel noted that this has led, for example, to the ability of the University to absorb the historical deficit created by FMRE, and further that last year there was no cut to the SOM budget for the first time in many years. Among the other changes that helped impress the LCME reviewers were the dramatic improvement in addressing diversity (save for the residency programs, which is beginning to be addressed), and improvements in curriculum and curriculum management. The LCME final report will be in October.
 - b. Dr. Sobel suggested that there is a continuing need for investment in SOM facilities and he appointed a committee led by Dr. Walz (see his report below) to determine the most pressing needs. He also noted the need for investment in the SOM research enterprise by the OVPR, particularly given the recent retraction of indirect cost returns to the SOM, departments, and faculty.
 - c. Dr. Sobel commented on the recent retirement of about 45 faculty and noted that this will save the SOM in the millions of dollars. He noted that now there is a need to invest this savings in new faculty and start up packages.
 - d. Dr. Sobel summarized recent de-tenuring proceedings. A first de-tenuring hearing was held in April but the final determination was postponed because the individual retired. He noted that up to ten faculty were being considered by the administration for de-tenuring. Four of those faculty voluntarily retired, which the Dean suggested might be the best possible outcome for both the faculty and school.
 - e. The Dean was asked how the loss of faculty will impact teaching, particularly in light of the increased need for teaching due to the new curriculum's focus on small group and

problem solving based teaching. Dr. Sobel suggested that meeting the teaching needs will require greater innovation and flexibility in finding highly qualified teachers; which may include increasing teaching assignments by faculty and attracting part-time teachers.

- f. Dr. Sobel made several additional announcements and updates. All of the faculty that were put up for promotion or tenure by the SOM this year were awarded promotion or tenure by the University. The ongoing (improved) admissions process is going well and coming to a close for this round. Commencement is coming up and the guest speaker will be Dr. Mark Bertolini, Chief Executive Officer of Aetna. This coming weekend is the Wayne State Alumni Weekend with about 300 alumni attending, lectures, and various awards to be made. Finally, the Dean discussed the upcoming celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of Wayne State University School of Medicine.

4. Report on research facilities from the Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs, Daniel Walz, Ph.D.

- a. Dr. Walz chaired a committee charged with determining the problems with research facilities and prioritizing needs. The committee consisted of representatives from every department. Dr. Walz summarized their analysis. First, he pointed out the fact that Scott Hall is 45 years old and even the newer spaces like Ellimen are over 25 years old. These buildings were built at a time when research was done very differently from the way it is today. Maintenance and improvements have not kept up with the demands of modern research facilities. The committee came up with a list of priorities. The first three in order are: 1. The HVAC systems and the ability to control temperature in research spaces; 2. Electrical service providing the required level of stable current to research equipment and spaces; 3. Water containment and prevention of water damage due to leaks. The Committee provided a report to the Dean who then asked for a cost estimate. The current estimate is in the range of \$75-100M for 6 floors in Scott Hall.

5. Report from the President of the Faculty Senate, Kathleen Meert, M.D..

- a. Dr. Meert reported that the Faculty Senate Bylaws had been updated to make clear that individuals in clinical departments who are in tenure-ineligible positions can be elected to serve as officers of Faculty Senate Executive Committee (EC). The senate voted to approve the new Bylaws. An election for new members of the EC is ongoing.

6. Old Business: None

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Finley, Vice President, Executive Committee of the SOM Faculty Senate