

## MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE

**Date:** April 24, 2014

**Present:** Drs. Aaron, Bannon, Finley, Heath, Lerner, Levine, Meert, Philip, Rossi, Sheng, Shisheva, Thomas, Uberti, Vaishampayan, Welch

**Absent:** Drs. Kapatos, Monsell

**Also Present:** Vice Dean Sonnino, Associate Dean Delaney-Black

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Dr. Sheng at 3:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of April 10, 2014:** The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
3. **Dean's Report:**

In the absence of Dean Parisi, Vice Dean Sonnino reported:

In her role as President-Elect of the Group on Faculty Affairs (GFA) of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), Dr. Sonnino is working to define what we mean by clinical faculty and how they are defined.

Problem with SOM Election: Dr. Sonnino explained that the SOM employee who had previously handled the SOM election last year is no longer available for this. She and Mary Uryga are trying to have someone now at the SOM organize and carry out the election.

Selective Salary Review Process and Problems with Faculty Affairs Staffing: Faculty Affairs has been trying to organize the faculty packets for EC subcommittees' review, but some departments filed packets late. She also stated that Faculty Affairs is short-staffed. Mary Uryga is temporarily out, and she has been overwhelmed. Dr. Bannon asked how we can move ahead, and Dr. Sonnino replied that she has no backup. She said that she plans to overhaul the Faculty Affairs processes, but she loses staff. She will discuss this problem with "the powers that be."

4. **President's Report:**

Dr. Sheng addressed the problem of inadequate staffing for the EC. We are often called upon for important service, yet we have little support on review of faculty appointments and Selective Salary Review. We were promised an opportunity for pre-review of appointment packages, so we would have adequate time to review and present the appointments, yet it is not happening. Dr. Delaney-Black promised to try in the future to have appointments reviewed prior to EC discussion. Drs. Sheng and Bannon will prepare an appeal to Dean Parisi for support of EC activities in general and for Selective Salary Review in particular at this time.

5. **Personnel Appointments:**

The proposed appointment of Susmit Suvas, Ph.D. as Associate Professor of Ophthalmology and of Anatomy and Cell Biology with Tenure was approved.

The proposed appointment of Richard Severson, Ph.D. as Professor of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences Emeritus was approved.

## **6. Old Business:**

Conflict of Interest Policy for the SOM: After the last EC meeting, Dr. Sonnino solicited opinions on the Conflict of Interest policy that is being developed for the SOM, but she received comments from only two EC members. UPG should be removed from this, as should WSU clinical facilities. Dr. Sonnino offered to send us a summary of the recommendations in an abbreviated document (summary from JAMA) and the original document. Dr. Rossi asked for an example of a policy scored as a B, so we could consider it. Dr. Sonnino welcomes feedback from faculty as soon as possible, at least in the next few weeks. Dr. Rossi proposed that we have our comments to Dr. Sonnino by May 16.

## **7. New Business:**

Change in appointment of clinical faculty: Vice Dean Maryjean Schenk represented the Dean, who was away, in a discussion of policy of appointment of clinical faculty. An e-mail had been sent from Larry Klain reporting that Ken Lee had stated that FMRE funds would not be available for appointment of new clinical faculty until the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, although the policy would be reviewed in August. Our SOM budget cut would be \$1M this year and \$2M next year. Dr. Schenk felt that this is not a new policy, and that all Chairs must clear funding with Larry Klain before making a faculty appointment.

Appearance of Professor Lou Romano and Professor David Kessel from the WSU Faculty Senate Policy Committee: In response to an invitation from the EC, Drs. Romano and Kessel kindly met with the EC to discuss perspectives from Main Campus and Budget issues.

The WSU Budget is undergoing a 3% decline. President Wilson is using one-time money to ease the consequences of the budget decline.

Professor Romano discussed Responsibility-Centered Management (RCM); the first step is to carry out calculations to assess the consequences.

Other Budgetary matters were discussed.

The SOM Budget Deficit was discussed.

The problem of poor consultation with researchers before decisions are enacted from Main Campus that affect research was discussed.

The need for rebuilding of Scott Hall was discussed. The MBRB that is undergoing construction is not intended as a replacement.

Professor Romano pointed out that the Administration generally does not listen to the Policy Committee, but the Deans have greater influence. Many Deans have no experience in running a research lab and carrying out research, so they may not understand the problems confronting researchers.

The new Vice President for Research (VPR) is quite promising, and even has his own research grant. Further the President has had research experience and is well connected at NIH.

Before President Wilson arrived, Professor Romano felt that there was not much direction on how the MBRB would be used. Maybe now the VPR will play a greater role in this. President Wilson brought in Battelle to plan to maximize research and research funding. Their stay has been extended until June. Dr. Bannon questioned the plan to fill the MBRB with mid-career

well-funded faculty. He felt it would be too expensive to hire them, and might not pay off. He felt we should look for people who have been successful but not fully appreciated where they are and then attract them with more money and faculty slots.

Professor Romano offered to bring complaints about Scott Hall deficiencies to the Policy Committee for discussion. Dr. Sheng will ask Professor Donal O'Leary, Chair of the Research Development Committee, if he has a report on Scott Hall. Professor Romano suggested that the EC invite Rick Nork to see Scott Hall.

There was discussion about asking Dean Parisi to compare the SOM budget from the University and SOM perspectives.

Professor Romano stated clearly that he realizes that the SOM and its researcher are the reason which WSU is a research university.

**8.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen A. Lerner, M.D., Secretary, Executive Committee of the SOM Faculty Senate