MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FACULTY SENATE
May 13, 2021

Present:  Drs. Abrams, Ackerman, Berman, Conti, Fridman, Granneman, Kim, Rowley, Secord, Shekhar, and Williams.
Absent:  Drs. Basha, Crane, Pearson, Soubani
Also Present:  Dr. Dubaybo, R. Cooper, N. McIntyre.

Call to Order:  The meeting was called to order at 3:04 p.m. by Dr. Rowley.

1. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the meetings of April 08 and April 22, 2021 were approved.

2. Personnel Actions:

The proposed appointment of Nina Steele, PhD as Assistant Professor (Research Educator) in the Department of Pharmacology with secondary appointment in the Department of Oncology was approved.

The proposed change of appointment for Biren Shah, MD from Clinical Professor to Professor (Clinician-Educator, FTA) in the Department of Radiology was approved.

The proposed appointment of Zaher Otrock, MD as Clinical Professor in the Department of Pathology was approved.

The proposed appointment of Frank Vicini, MD as Clinical Professor in the Department of Oncology was approved.

3. Report from the President:

a. Research Grant Management.  Dr. Rowley introduced four guests in attendance, Drs. Bannon, Mueller, Philip, and Rossi, who joined us today to discuss faculty concerns over the recent restructuring of grants management at the SOM.  For decades, each of the basic science departments has been assigned a salaried position for a Grants/Contracts administrator (GCA), who assisted faculty with all aspects related to the application for and management of extramural funding.  In what was defined as a cost-saving move, Dr. Schweitzer just cut the GCA position from the budget of any department whose income from grants fell below the threshold of 5 million dollars.  Faculty who inquired about assistance with grants moving forward were told that all pre- and post-award grant matters would be handled by “someone” in Research Administration Services (RAS).  Dr. Schweitzer was expected to attend today’s EC meeting and our guests came seeking answers from him to specific questions.  Unfortunately, just prior to Dr. Schweitzer’s anticipated arrival we were informed of a last minute schedule change that forced him cancel his appearance at our meeting.  At this point, Dr. Rowley invited Dr. Mueller, who chairs the Research Development Committee, to brief the EC about why the faculty were at odds with the dean’s action.  In essence, there was profound disappointment over the fact Dr. Schweitzer did not query the faculty prior to taking an action they perceived to be intimately tied to their success with extramural funding.  The department GCA’s was someone who was well acquainted with the research conducted by their faculty and nuances associated with grant applications to agencies that reviewed the proposals.  Faculty developed a close working
relationship with their GCA and trusted them to perform essential tasks during the highly stressful grant application process. The idea that now this process would be put in the hands of whomever was available at the moment in RAS was inconceivable and anticipated to produce a poor outcome.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon H. Ackerman, Ph.D., Secretary, Executive Committee of the SOM Faculty Senate.
NOTATIONS

VOLUNTARY FACULTY

Callaghan, Michael, MD  Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Pediatrics with joint in Oncology

Kokenakes, Courtney, MS  Adjunct Assistant Professor
Department of Oncology

Lawson, Christyne, MD  Clinical Instructor
Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences

Lipovich, Leonard, PhD  Adjunct Professor
Center for Perinatology Research Branch and the
Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics

Msallaty, Zaher, MD  Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Internal Medicine

Poleck, AnneMarie, DO  Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences

Savasan, Sureyya, MD  Clinical Professor
Department of Pediatrics with joint in Oncology

Schenk, Mehgann, MD  Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Oncology

Warner, Laura, MD  Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Pediatrics

Weber, Amanda, DO  Clinical Assistant Professor
Department of Neurology

SEPARATIONS

Salih, Sana, MD  Associate Professor (Clinician Educator)
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Yeo, Lami, MD  Professor (Clinician Educator)
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology