Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Chris Waters, at 12:05 PM on January 3, 2005, in Hyman 101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

   Kelly Askins, MD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Stanley Kaplan, MD, Leonard Lothstein, PhD, E. Haavi Morreim, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Ron Pfeiffer, MD, Mildred Randolf, DVM, Kenneth D. Sellers, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Fran Tylavsky, DrPH, Christopher M. Waters, PhD, Robert S. Waters, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD

The following members were excused:

   Art Geller, PhD

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

   Hank Herrod, MD

Approval of minutes

   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means. A hard copy of the minutes was available for review by the members.

Old Business

   Pres. Waters resumed last month's discussion regarding animal care on campus. There have been many complaints by faculty in recent months regarding animal care and use, focusing both on facilities and regulations. Dr. Randolph said that last year our status was "deferred" rather than "probationary." In January, UT's current official status will be identified. Possibly it will be "probationary" because previously identified problems have not been fixed, despite UT's promises to do so. A number of problems were discussed regarding animal use facilities, protocols, and review procedures. Dr. Randolph noted, for instance, that the Coleman building still does not have a working autoclave available, despite many months of repeated requests. More broadly, a number of changes that have been promised, and for which funds have been allocated, simply have not been enacted. Pres. Waters indicated that Randy Nelson is very willing to meet with investigators and try to work out solutions regarding protocol review and approval. Dean Herrod is aware of the problems with regard to the facilities, but is not in a position to make the necessary changes; rather, it is the chancellor who needs to know that certain things that need to be done, are not being done. Money has been allocated to fix the
facilities problems, but the necessary changes have not been made. It was also noted that UT's facilities problems may result in loss of accreditation.

Pres. Waters proposed that DFAC write a letter to the Chancellor to ensure that changes for which budgeting has already been authorized be enacted as soon as possible. The purpose of the letter would not be to criticize the Department of Comparative Medicine, but rather to support their efforts to fix the problems in the animal facilities. Also, the letter should address issues related to ongoing support of animal care and use oversight on this campus. Faculty are concerned that indirect costs are not being appropriately utilized to support animal care and use facilities and personnel. Dean Herrod agreed that a letter would be very appropriate, including to make the Chancellor aware of the potential implications to the entire campus if UTHSC's animal accreditation is withdrawn. It was proposed and agreed that the letter to the Chancellor include a notation that a copy of the letter is being sent to President Petersen.

New Business

Pres. Waters said that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee will meet with each of the chancellor candidates. One candidate has dropped out, but each of the 7 remaining will be on campus this week or next. They will meet with FSEC and additionally will participate in open forums for the faculty at large to attend. Pres. Waters indicated he will attend as many of the FSEC sessions as possible, and encouraged DFAC members to attend the open forums. Pres. Waters reviewed some of the questions that he and the FESC plan to ask of the various candidates.

The group also discussed the possibility of moving DFAC meetings from the first Monday to the second Monday of the month. Since the shut-down of the Bowld hospital, finding a suitable meeting location has been a challenge. A suitable room is available in Coleman, but on second Mondays, not first Mondays. Continuing in the Hyman 101 room will require parking accommodations for a few members. The necessary inquiries will be made through Dr. Herrod's office.

Pres. Waters then invited nominations for next year's Dean's Symposium speakers. A number of candidates were considered, and selection will be made via email balloting in the near future. The group discussed the possibility of meeting in conjunction with alumni weekend, which is believed to be October 14-15.

DFAC membership: Some departments consistently are not represented at DFAC meetings. Pres. Waters inquired whether larger departments should have more than one member (pediatrics, internal medicine, OB, and surgery are the larger departments). The matter will be explored further in the near future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on February 7, 2005, at 12:00 Noon in [TBA].

Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary