Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, president-elect, at 12:09 PM on January 4, 2010, in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD, Maggie DeBon, PhD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, PhD, Bob Foehring, PhD, Elias A. Giraldo, MD, MS, Stephen King, MD, Leonard Lothstein, PhD, E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Edwards Park, PhD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Thad Wilson, PhD, Parker Suttle, PhD

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

Dr. Lacey Smith;  Dr. Polly Hofmann

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Polly Hofmann reported her findings in response to DFAC questions regarding UTHSC's change of domain name. She spoke with Taylor Strickland who indicated that, per the people who control the "edu" domain names, [1] it is not acceptable to have two domain names; [2] at most you can have two for 6 months. As a result, it is unfortunately not possible to extend the transition time past its current deadline of early March.

Parker Suttle, president of the Faculty Senate, updated the group regarding last month's discussion about proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook. On January 7 the Executive Committee will meet to review all the input it has received, and will attempt to reach a consensus on a version that will meet the needs of both the CoM and the concerns of faculty. He invited any further comments to be submitted either to Parker Suttle or to one's Senate representatives before January 7.

The results of the Executive Committee meeting will then be presented to the Faculty Senate on January 12. At that point it will be sent back to Office of General Counsel by mid-January, to be finally readied for the Trustees' meeting in February. If agreement can not be reached, then the matter would not be placed before the Trustees until the June meeting.
Dr. Suttle indicated that any changes contemplated currently will not apply retroactively. He also emphasized that the section in question will apply only to a faculty-initiated change in practice affiliation. Discussion observed that this last point does not appear clearly in the current wording of the proposed revision; that is, the proposed revision refers to cases when a faculty member changes clinical practice affiliation, without specifying that it only covers instances when a faculty member initiates such a change.

Another comment wondered whether perhaps the process is so far advanced that there is little chance of truly influencing what happens. Dr. Suttle responded that any further input would be taken seriously.

Several suggestions have emerged from DFAC discussion:
   one is to incorporate the language of "adequate cause" for tenure removal, rather than to presume that a change of affiliation constitutes automatic resignation whether or not the faculty member actually wishes to resign;
   another is to remove "site" in places that discuss "affiliation or site";
   another is to specify, expressly, that this revision refers to *faculty-initiated* changes of practice affiliation, and not to administration-requested changes.

Regarding UTHSC's fiscal situation, Dean Smith indicated that a list of staff cuts has been generated. There is a severe budget shortfall, and it is likely layoffs will occur once a firm directive is received from the Chancellor's office. It is possible that letters of layoff could be sent as early as mid-January.

On a somewhat related matter, UTMG is now instituting a 5% withhold from clinical salaries, as a financial pool from which to incentivize and reward clinical productivity. Many faculty will receive the entire amount back, or more, although others will receive less if they do not meet productivity expectations.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held on February 1, 2010, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary