Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine

October 5, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Chris Waters, at 12:08 PM on October 4, 2004, in F302 of the Coleman building.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Allen S. Edmonson, MD;  Art Geller, Stanley Kaplan, MD; PhD;  E. Haavi Morreim, PhD;  Linda K. Myers, MD; Claudette Shephard, MD;  Christopher M. Waters, PhD;  Robert S. Waters, PhD;  Thad Wilson, PhD

The following members were excused:

Drs. Bill Morris, Fran Tylavsky, Ken Sellars, Mildred Randolph, Ron Pfeiffer

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

Dr. Henry Herrod, Dean

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

The first topic of discussion was the upcoming Third Annual Dean's Symposium. Gabor Tigyi will introduce Dr. Van Middlesworth; for Dr Dale, two options: Dr. Gene Stollerman, if available, or Dr. Dennis Schaberg if Stollerman can not.

Dr. Thad Wilson has identified one potential sponsor for the symposium and will know soon for sure if that support will be available. If none comes through, the Dean's office will cover the cost, which is primarily food and beverages for the reception. Dr. Fran Tylavsky is taking care of publicity. The development office had been requested to identify friends of the speakers, especially Dr. VanMiddlesworth, who might welcome a special invitation.

Regarding the poster session, Dr. Shephard said that she was informed the poster display boards owned by UT must stay on campus because they are fragile. At the same time, the library would prefer not to have displays placed on the walls. Dr. Shepherd is inquiring about other options.

New Business
Dr. Dick Peppler has asked for nominations for the CAAP committee. The original request was to find a clinical faculty member from DFAC, if possible, to replace Ken Sellars. Last week Dr. Peppler indicated that the new member need not be from the DFAC, but did need to be from the clinical faculty. Several people have been identified to date, but no one has accepted the invitation thus far. DFAC members identified several additional people who might be suitable candidates to contact.

Dr. Waters then reported on the visit of UT's new president, Dr. John Petersen. He appears to be highly interested in research. He also indicated that UT's compensation system needs to adjusted to reward things like excellence in teaching and research, rather than simply longevity. During the meeting it was noted that UT needs a stronger clinical research component, yet other obligations, such as clinical patient care, seem to preempt much of the time needed for those who wish to do research. Dr. Petersen also emphasized that in communicating about UT he presents a single description of the institution's needs and objectives, whether he is talking to administration, faculty, legislators, or others. Dr. Petersen is also very focused on strategic planning. He intends to hire a chancellor who will identify the needs for the Memphis campus, and devise approaches to meet those needs. Petersen does not plan to micro-manage the Memphis campus, nor does he intend to impose administrative styles suitable for the Knoxville campus onto the Memphis campus. In essence, he promised 'full autonomy' for the Memphis chancellor. On another issue, Petersen suggested that rather than disperse research money equally across departments and campuses, he favors focusing on more limited number of specific areas, to emphasize excellence and progress. Neutron science, biology, computational biology and materials science are four areas that have been identified to develop in collaboration with Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

Finally, Dr. Waters invited DFAC members to identify issues that DFAC needs to work on this year. One suggestion was to evaluate the relationship between the CoM's dean and UT's new president and chancellor. DFAC also should be a conduit between the faculty and the dean's office. Fully discharging this responsibility should involve several activities each year that can enhance the DFAC's profile, so that faculty will be aware of its existence and role. One option for enhancing communication is to encourage DFAC members to have a regular role in their departments' respective faculty meetings.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on November 1, 2004, at 12:00 Noon in F302 of the Coleman building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary