Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Larry Reiter, at 12:08 PM on October 7, 2013, in the Coleman building, Room A101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Stephen King, MD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Kaushik Parthasarathi, PhD, Fruz Pourmotabbed, PhD, Larry Reiter, PhD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Tiffany Seagroves, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Thad Wilson, PhD

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

David Stern, MD, Polly Hofmann, PhD, Susan Senogles, PhD

Approval of minutes

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

Business

Pres. Reiter began by inviting an update from the subcommittee on the Educational Activities Metric. It was proposed that there perhaps might be a "short form" as well as the "long form" currently being created. Perhaps one could make the Simplified form available as an alternative to the more detailed form. Terry Cooper indicated that he and Bill Pulsinelli have met with all but 2 department chairs, and have scheduled appointments with the remaining two. Chairs thusfar have been very receptive, partly because it provides one unified form for evaluating faculty's education efforts. As Drs. Cooper and Pulsinelli have invited faculty to provide the actual time they spend for various categories on the current draft form, Dr. Cooper reported that nearly 40 responses have come in thus far, and that the standard deviation among them is turning out to be remarkably small. Dr. Cooper also observed that there appears to be very little "inflation factor," i.e. that faculty seem to be filling out these forms with honesty. Once all the responses are in, the full set of data will be shared. Dr. Cooper said that the full form takes about a half-hour to complete, for those who do a lot of teaching activities—considerably less for those who provide only a lecture or two per year.

Turning to another topic, Pres. Reiter suggested that perhaps a subcommittee to consider how to promote Translational Research grants that would pair basic science and clinical researchers. Pres. Reiter will chair this subcommittee, and other members will join from both basic science and clinical research sides.
The meeting then focused on the draft document by which faculty might be required to engage in activities to improve teaching quality. Dr. Polly Hofmann said that the issue arose as part of the LCME self-study process, during which it was observed that UT’s CoM has only limited opportunities for faculty to enhance their teaching. Right now, a Blackboard site is being created with various modules to provide information about teaching online.

Dr. Hofmann identified a number of helpful suggestions that came in and were disseminated to DFAC members, upon request for feedback (see “TeachingQualityActvts”). One option might be to have education-focused faculty come, e.g., during department meetings to make brief live presentations on teaching quality. Several DFAC members expressed support for this concept. People from the new Dept of Medical Education might help to lead such an effort. Another option might be to ensure that anyone who is new to teaching or directing a course must complete some sort of module to achieve basic competence.

A key question concerns whether such quality-training should be mandatory or optional, and whether it should be expanded beyond just those who teach M1-M4 medical students, e.g. to extend to graduate students. One option might be for chairs and faculty to discuss teaching improvement as part of the annual evaluation meeting. DFAC members expressed little enthusiasm for creating a lot of paperwork duties. Another possibility might look like the annual HIPAA and other compliance sorts of training. GME already has a requirement that residents and faculty have development opportunities to enhance teaching.

Dr. Hofmann indicated that, at some point, further updates and a revised draft will appear. We can expect to see an email soon, to describe the Blackboard-based availability of teaching resources.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held on November 4, 2013, at 12:00 Noon in the Coleman building, Room A101.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary