Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Art Geller, at 12:06 PM on November 6, 2006, in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Attendance:

The following members were present:

Martin A. Croce, MD
Maggie DeBon, PhD
Allen S. Edmonson, MD
Art Geller, PhD
Stanley Kaplan, MD
Len Lothstein, PhD
William R. Morris, MD
Linda K. Myers, MD
Elias A. Giraldo, MD
Renate Rosenthal, PhD
Christopher M. Waters, PhD
Robert S. Waters, PhD
Thad Wilson, PhD
Jack Buchanan, MD

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

Pat Wall, MD
George Cook, PhD

Excused Member:

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD

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.

New Business:

The original agenda for today’s meeting was changed because of scheduling conflicts with the invited guests.
A called meeting will be scheduled in the near future with the Executive Dean. He would like to discuss the Strategic Plan. The date and time will be determined after consultation with the Dean’s schedule.

Interim Dean Pat Wall updated DFAC on the situation at the Regional Medical Center (MED). He reviewed the early events leading up to the recent crisis. He described the extreme efforts of the MED administration, their consultants and the medical staff in rewriting the bylaws and policies of the hospital. The administration with the cooperation of the faculty of the College of Medicine has been able to cut the number of delinquent medical records from 3700 during the past summer to zero at the time of the CMS visit. The CMS site visitors reviewed and accepted action plans that respond to the CMS citations. CMS was again on site on November 1, 2006, spending three days visiting the hospital. There were some remaining concerns in the Emergency Department and the Jail Diversion Unit. At the exit interview the CMS reviewers were very complimentary and removed all “conditions of participation” allowing full participation by the MED in the Medicare/Medicaid programs. CMS will continue to monitor the compliance of the MED in the coming months and years. The importance of full cooperation between the MED administration and the faculty of the College of Medicine in maintaining the standards in the future was voiced by several members of the DFAC. Service chiefs will receive weekly updates on outstanding medical records. New ways of documenting the participation of the faculty in supervising residents were instituted.

The interim CEO of the MED, Elizabeth Ostrie, is scheduled to take office on November 15, 2006. She has been active in the discussions with the CMS site visitors. A search has started for a permanent CEO.

There was much discussion among about the DFAC members about this situation.

Dr. Edmonson asked a question about the 5% raise announced for the President of the University of Tennessee and the raise for UT employees in FY 2007-2008. No definite information was available on this matter at this time.

Dr. Wall gave an update on searches for Chairs in the College of Medicine. Current searches include Physiology and Family Medicine. The search for a Chair of the Department of Medicine will be a high priority. The Chair of Radiology will be stepping down by January 2007.

Dr. Linda Myers advised the DFAC that there were two sentences in faculty Reappointment Letters that concerned her and her colleagues. One has to do with that portion of the salary paid by GME funds and the possibility that, if that funding were to be cut or the faculty member did not supervise residents, that portion of the faculty member’s salary might be cut. Another condition had to do with the loss of the faculty member’s UT COM appointment and tenure if the faculty member resigned from UTMG. The Dean stated that the GME money, if lost, might not be replaced with UT money unless duties of the faculty come to change. A discussion followed about the problems of funding faculty salaries on the campus both in the Basic Science and Clinical Departments.

Dr. Geller then brought up the subject of podcasting of medical student lectures. The President of the DFAC has received mixed response from faculty on this subject. A discussion followed, but no conclusion was reached.
A date for the Dean’s Symposium was proposed for early 2007. Speakers will be solicited from the DFAC.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 4, 2006, at 12:00 Noon in the Hyman building, Room 101.

The January meeting of the DFAC will be held at 12:00 Noon on January 8, 2007, in the Molecular Sciences Auditorium.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Morris, MD