Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Stan Kaplan, at 12:05 PM on November 7, 2005, in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

   Martin A. Croce, M.D., MD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Art Geller, PhD, Stanley Kaplan, MD, Haavi Morreim, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Ron Pfeiffer, MD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Maggie DeBon, PhD, Christopher M. Waters, PhD, Robert S. Waters, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD

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

   Hank Herrod, MD, Andrew Kang, MD, Gerald Byrne, PhD, Larry Pfeffer, 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

President Kaplan introduced new DFAC members, Martin Croce, MD (Surgery) and Maggie DeBon, PhD (Preventive Medicine).

Dr. Andrew Kang and Dr. Gerry Byrne, co-chairs of the Search Committee for the new Executive Dean, presented information about the committee's objectives and their first meeting, held on November 4, 2005. The Committee will work with the assistance of Baker-Parker Executive Search Firm, the firm that identified candidates for the President of UT, Chancellor of UTHSC and a number of other executives and administrators for the UT system.

At the November 4 meeting of the Search Committee, the Chancellor Owen clarified his charge to the Committee that the Executive Dean will also be the sitting dean of the Memphis campus of the UT College of Medicine. In addition, the Executive Dean will also be the chief administrative officer to coordinate and synergize educational and research activities on the 3 campuses – Memphis, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

A question was raised as to whether perhaps it would make more sense simply to identify the Memphis Dean as "the" dean, and designate those at the Knoxville and Chattanooga campuses as "associate" deans. Drs. Kang and Byrne noted that this, it appears, is not possible. By prior
contractual agreement, Knoxville must have a "dean". Hence the "executive dean" who will, in fact, be the Memphis-based CoM Dean will have this distinctive title. In sum, where earlier it appeared that there may have been a search for two people with different titles, Dean, and Executive Dean, there now will be a single search for one person who will have both titles and their respective roles.

During its meeting the Search Committee also set out a timetable. Their goal will be to finish the process and have someone in place by July of 2006. The search will be conducted in a manner similar to the way the search for the Chancellor was conducted: with as much openness and transparency as possible, albeit with a significant measure of confidentiality at the earliest phases. Once the list is reduced to 3 or 4 people, these individuals will meet with various persons in the College in a much more public fashion. There may be Town Hall meetings, meetings with other groups like department chairs, hospital administrators, Faculty Senate representatives, and quite likely the DFAC. During this process, the Search Committee will develop a set of questions that all candidates will be asked to answer.

During DFAC discussion of the presentation, it was suggested that an important feature of a good selection process would be to have each candidate meet, not just with groups, but also with individuals.

Minutes of the search committee's 11/4/05 meeting will be made available on the DFAC website.

Old Business

Pres. Kaplan then invited the DFAC to reflect on the Fourth Annual Dean's Symposium, held last month. The general feeling was that the quality of the Symposium was excellent, but that attendance could have been better. There was discussion about whether it is wiser to hold it on campus or elsewhere. One idea may be to make it permanently part of annual Alumni Weekend, and to integrate it even more tightly into that function rather than as an add-on. Closer coordination with the Development Office and the Alumni office will be sought for the future.

The poster session went well although the logistics would be improved if UT staff could be enlisted in the future to help transport poster boards, easels, and the like.

The discussion then turned to teaching awards. Art Geller noted that, as courses have been combined under the revised curriculum, there are fewer awards for teaching. The medical students are considering the idea of presenting more than one award for a given course, to make up for this decrease. Via these student-based awards, students have input into faculty promotions. One issue not yet addressed is the fact that a number of faculty in the CoM teach in other colleges, and do not get recognition of this sort.

Dr. Herrod indicated that associate deans have been meeting to discuss academic responsibilities. The idea is to seek better coordination of the overall education process and to do a better job of providing resources to help faculty be better teachers. In addition, Dr. Herrod has had discussions with the Development Office to create some awards, to be given annually, that will carry a financial stipend.
Addendum: after the meeting, Dr. Art Geller noted that he represented DFAC at the new faculty orientation. He put a poster together and set it up. Although the turnout was modest, he did speak to several COM faculty about DFAC. The poster can be used for future such occasions.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 5, 2005, at 12:00 Noon in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary