Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee (DFAC)
December 8, 2004

I. Call to order

The December meeting of the DFAC was called to order by the President at 12:05 PM on December 6, 2004, in Room F302 of the Coleman Building.

II. Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous DFAC meeting were approved as distributed.

III. Attendance

Members Present:

Linda Myers, MD
Ken Sellers, MD
Chris Waters PhD, President
William R. Morris, MD
Stanley Kaplan, MD
Arthur Geller, PhD
Bob Waters, PhD
Mildred Randolph, DVM
Fran Tylavsky, DPH
Len Lothstein, PhD
Thad Wilson, PhD

Excused:
Claudette Shepherd, MD

Guests:
Dr. Mike Dockter
Dr. Randy Nelson
Syamal Bhattacharya, PhD

IV. Old business

A. The president of DFAC announced that a letter concerning reappointments had been sent to the entire faculty. It is hoped that this letter will clear up some of the misunderstandings about this process.

B. The committee is still at work on the Non-tenure track policy changes for the COM Bylaws. The final draft will be sent to the DFAC for final approval, and a special called meeting of the entire faculty will be held perhaps in February for final approval.

V. New Business

The committee heard from Drs. Mike Dockter and Randy Nelson concerning the problems with animal care on campus as outlined by the recent AAALAC site visit.
Dr. Dockter began by giving an overview of the significance of animal research on campus. About 60% of grants on this campus involve the use of animals. The care and use of animals are regulated by strict federal regulations. Principal Investigators (PIs) of grants should know what these regulations are, because they agree to abide by them when they sign off on their grant. The ultimate authority for animal care issues on the campus is the Institutional Officer (IO). If problems arise, this person is ultimately the legally responsible person. Dr. Dockter holds this post at the present time. The Department of Comparative Medicine (DCM) is responsible for advising on care of the animals. The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for policing the PIs and the DCM. A new position of Institutional Animal care and Use Office (IACUO) was created to act as a compliance authority for the PIs, the DCM, and the IACUC. Dr Randy Nelson holds this position at this time. He also reviews protocols for verification of appropriate animal use.

The AAALAC is the accrediting agency for animal care and use. They inspected this campus about 2 to 3 years ago and evaluated faculty, committee activities, labs, and animal care facilities. They were concerned at that time primarily about the work of the IACUC. Another visit in November 2004 indicated that the work of the IACUC and the DCM was "exemplary." However, there were deficiencies in the infrastructure that concerned them. Some PIs were apparently changing objectives of the grant, which amounted to a change in protocol without notification of grant officers or the IACUC or IACUO.

Dr. Nelson then outlined a brief history of the Animal Welfare Act and showed several publications that governed the care and use of laboratory animals. The major deficiency in the infrastructure was the full implementation of an Occupational Health and Safety Program. This program provides regulations governing the personnel who handle the animals and who might be exposed to various diseases and other risk in association with their job. This must be done and will be administered through the University Health Office in this campus. Additional problems were an autoclave that was unsatisfactory and some substandard surfaces. The exact strategy for correcting these last deficiencies was discussed. Additional staff support is needed but not available at this time. Education of PIs and their personnel is critical to solving these problems. The IACUO should be a resource to assist the PIs in properly caring for the animals in their laboratories.

The OSHA issue will be addressed in more detail at a later date.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 3, 2005, in Room 100 in the Hyman Building.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Morris, MD
Acting for the Secretary