Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee  
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine  
February 4, 2008  

Call to Order  

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Renate Rosenthal, at 12:05PM on February 4, 2008, in the Hyman building, Room 101.  

Attendance  

The following members were present: 

Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD, Martin A. Croce, MD, Maggie DeBon, PhD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Art Geller, PhD, Elias A. Giraldo, MD, Stanley Kaplan, MD, Leonard Lothstein, PhD, E. Haavi Morreim, PhD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Robert S. Waters, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD, Peg Hartig, PhD, Gary Keyes, PhD  

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

Steve Schwab, MD, Executive 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.  

New Business  

Dr. Schwab began his remarks by indicating that he would like to present a "state of the college" address in the near future. The CoM has experienced a number of changes, doubtless raising a number of questions about the future in the minds of many faculty and staff. Such an address would be an opportunity to provide a detailed update on recent events, discuss future directions, and to respond to questions.  

Dr. Schwab then provided a brief update on a number of recent and imminent developments. The Department of Internal Medicine's search committee for a new chairman expects to provide its list of finalists in the coming week; the dept of Anatomy and Neurobiology is likely to provide its own list in the following week; and Ophthalmology is hoped to follow not long thereafter. Dr. Schwab hopes to fill all three chairs by summer.  

On the economic front, Graduate Medical Education funding coffers and clinical coffers are both robust, while state funds are, as has been the case, limited. With current GME funding Dr. Schwab hopes, among other things, to start an emergency medicine department in Chattanooga. Other start-ups are expected in anesthesia, while ophthalmology has been expanding its program. The goal or each program is to be finished with the start-up phase by the end of year three, with the respective departments being self-sufficient by that time.
Additional discussion concerned The Med, as it seeks a major hospital partner. Dr. Schwab stated that UT and the CoM are monitoring this process closely, and are comfortable with the process as it is unfolding. Dr. Schwab indicated that he believes UT CoM physicians should have a seat on the board of directors and is making efforts in that direction.

Further discussion focused on funding for core laboratories such as the Molecular Resource Center and its flow cytometry facilities. Most such labs are to be used by all colleges on the campus, hence have a set line of funding from the campus. Because this funding may not meet all needs, each center is expected to obtain remaining funds on its own initiative. Financial shortages for these campus-wide labs is not under the governance of the CoM, but rather falls under the governance of Vice-Chancellor Rusty Johnson.

The discussion then turned to the relationship between UT and the Baptist Research Park. Per Dr. Schwab's understanding, BioWorks hopes to begin construction on the Phase I building sometime this year. A number of issues remain, such as who will lease the space. Overall, UT is hoping to forge a closer relationship with BioWorks and collaboratively launch a series of efforts.

Regarding the status of the CTSI, Dr. Schwab indicated that we have submitted the grant and expect to hear within 3-4 months. Based on past history, it is not expected that anyone will be funded during the first round. More likely, each applicant will be given a "pink sheet" suggesting improvements to the grant application. One possible (and fairly common) suggestion is to link up with partners--perhaps with specific partners suggested by the Government. Dr. Schwab's goal is to achieve funding during the second round application.

Regarding the Governor's recent comments about funding for UT as a whole, Dr. Schwab noted that Gov. Bredeson does not plan to fund any capital improvement projects via the usual state funding. Thus, if there is to be any such funding, it will likely come via President Petersen. He noted that this concerns new capital projects; upgrade projects will receive continued funding, for instance the GEB. Efforts are being made via the Legislature, though it would be premature to be either optimistic or pessimistic.

As chairs are hired for various departments, Dr. Schwab stated that he expects to remain both dean and executive dean for the foreseeable future. The deans of the other CoM campuses have expressed that they understand and are comfortable with the fact that "orange" funds are distributed according to formula, rather than according to discretionary factors.

As of last count, 77 faculty members have been hired at the UTHSC campus. Although over 20 faculty have been lost, this still nets a significant gain. Around 100 additional faculty are being currently recruited, and substantial packages have been assembled for the chairmanships being filled. Dr. Schwab also indicated that relationships with Knoxville are improved and improving, though ongoing challenges remain.

Dr. Schwab will do his state-of-the-college address in the very near future, at a date to be established.

Per Dr. Kaplan's reminder of the need to appoint a nominations committee, Dr. Rosenthal appointed Robert Waters, Martin Croce, and Stanley Kaplan to serve as a nomination committee for next year's officers (President-elect and Secretary) and to replace next year's President since Dr. Geller is leaving. The committee will present their recommendations at the next meeting.
Old Business

Bob Waters provided an update on the Dean's Symposium. Two people have been identified as the speakers for this year's symposium. Dr. Schwab offered his support for whatever the DFAC wishes to do this year, with the suggestion that the symposium's focus and format may need to evolve in the future. The location will be the public library again this year, given that the Coleman auditoria will not have been renovated in time. Bob Waters will check into audiovisual equipment, which some commentators indicated was suboptimal last year. Art Geller and Thad Wilson will check into caterers. Other details were also discussed, to ensure that the symposium goes smoothly.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 3, 2008, 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