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

March 3, 2008

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Renate Rosenthal, at 12:10 PM on March 3, 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, Stanley Kaplan, MD, Leonard Lothstein, PhD, E. Haavi Morreim, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Robert S. Waters, PhD, Thad Wilson, PhD, Peg Hartig, PhD

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

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.

Old Business

Pres. Rosenthal updated information on the Dean's Symposium. Bob Waters has been in touch with the Public Library staff and will continue to communicate with them regarding options for projection and sound equipment. Transportation of material such as boards for poster sessions was discussed, and efforts will be made to secure university-based transportation, instead of relying on our own members' vehicles. Bob Waters will contact PR and photography personnel. Pres. Rosenthal has arranged with the caterer to provide refreshments. Claudette Shepherd suggested considering how best to obtain evaluations from attendees, and this issue will be explored further. Thad Wilson has been arranging for CME credit.

Dr. Schwab's State of the College is scheduled for March 13 from 5:00 to 6:30 in Coleman Auditorium; light refreshments will be served.

Pres. Rosenthal indicated that problems are still cropping up regarding faculty appointment letters. Although the administration's generic letter is intended only as a template that, in turn, is to be revised within each department, some faculty are receiving letters containing clauses that they believe do not fit their circumstances. For instance, one clause featuring the phrase "contingent upon funding," is a focus of special concern. Similarly, for faculty who are supported by grant funds, some letters appear to imply that if the grant funding is not renewed, the faculty
member will no longer be paid. Peg Hartig indicated that the faculty senate also has considered this matter.

Part of the problem may stem from the fact that the letters have become more complex, e.g., as they require estimates of how the faculty member's time is allocated. Also, a further problem may come from the fact that departments and their staff may not have been fully trained on how to adapt these letters to individual faculty circumstances.

Diana Johnson will soon meet with members of the faculty senate and the DFAC, to evaluate and address these concerns. Pres. Rosenthal indicated that, while she is very willing to serve on this committee, it is important also so have a physician who is fully involved in clinical practice. It is important that these letters be done properly, since they are ultimately an employment contract.

New Business

Bob Waters reported from the nominations committee that they have nominated Len Lothstein to run for the office of the next DFAC President, and Martin Croce for President-Elect. It was moved, seconded, and approved to close the nominations with these names. As always, additional nominations from the floor will be invited during the annual CoM meeting in May.

Peg Hartig was present during the recent Trustees' visit to Memphis and provided a brief report. Aside from the Trustees, UTHSC partners attended, including Gary Shorb of Methodist. Prior to the UT vs. U of M basketball game, an entire day was spent in meetings, providing Trustees with information about the campus's activities as well as its fiscal and physical needs. During DFAC discussion, some concerns were expressed that presentations of UTHSC concerns appear invariably to be filtered through administration, with little opportunity for direct faculty input.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on April 7, 2008, at 12:00 Noon in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, PhD
Secretary