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

April 4, 2006

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Stan Kaplan, at 12:4 PM on April 3, 2006, in the Hyman building, Room 101.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Louisa Balazs, MD, PhD, Maggie DeBon, PhD, Allen S. Edmonson, MD, Art Geller, PhD, Stanley Kaplan, MD, Leonard Lothstein, PhD, E. Haavi Morreim, PhD, William R. Morris, MD, Linda K. Myers, MD, Ron Pfieffer, MD, Mildred Randolf, DVM, Renate Rosenthal, PhD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Robert S. Waters, PhD

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

Barbara McAdams, Alumni Affairs; Amy Sorkin, Alumni Affairs; George Cook, PhD, President-Elect, Faculty Senate

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

Pres. Kaplan stated that we need to consider whether the Dean's Symposium will be associated with Alumni Weekend next year, Sept 28-30, 2006. Barbara McAdams and Amy Sorkin of Alumni Affairs described the plans for this year's Weekend. She indicated that that space is being currently held at the Peabody for this year, if the DFAC wants to use it. The total attendance was guestimated to be about 80-100 people, though additional people seem to have come for the poster sessions afterward. After discussion, it was decided that this year's Symposium would again be associated with the Alumni Weekend.

Next, Pres. Kaplan introduced George Cook, President-Elect for the Faculty Senate. On May 9 he will become President. He indicated that Faculty Senate elections have been a challenge in years past, but the situation has improved overall, campus-wide. However, in the College of Medicine there have been problems. Per the bylaws, members must be elected. One reason why it is important to have elections is the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, which acts as a grievance committee for the University. In addition, the Executive Committee meets regularly with the Chancellor. The Senate has been asked by the Chancellor to consider a number of important issues, including revising the rules for tenure.
To address the problem, the current plan is that, if a Department does not actually elect a member, then that department will not have a representative in the Faculty Senate. As a result, the Senate, and the Executive Committee, will likely be smaller than in the past. Dr. Cook emphasized that departments need to elect rather than appoint Senators, if the Faculty Senate is to be fully effective. Historically, the Board of Trustees is the authority by which the Faculty Senate operates. The BOT established the UTHSC Faculty Senate in 1971, and the BOT wrote the bylaws by which the Faculty Senate operates. Hence, there is little choice about adhering to the requirement for elections.

It was noted during discussion that the clinical departments may face special difficulties, because the Senate meets on the second Tuesday each month at 4pm—a time when many clinical faculty need to be in clinics rather than in meetings.

Over time, the Senate has varied in its tasks and effectiveness. At present, it has considerably more influence than in some past times. This year, across UT there will be a System Council featuring two representatives from each of the four campuses, who will meet with the President three times a year. At UTHSC, the President and President-Elect of the Faculty Senate will be on the System Council.

Turning to other business, Pres. Kaplan proposed that the DFAC's nomination committee, to nominate its next slate of officers, will be comprised of Stan Kaplan, Art Geller, and Chris Waters. They will identify two people for each office.

Old Business

Pres. Kaplan noted that the CoM's Nominations Committee needs another member, in addition to Martin Croce, Andrea Ehlberger, and Raj Raghow. This person needs to be a clinician. Dr. Renate Rosenthal agreed to serve.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on May 1, 2006, 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