Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president-elect, Dr. Arthur Geller, at 4 PM in the Coleman North Auditorium.

It was immediately announced that there was an agenda change from that previously sent out to the faculty to include a presentation by Chancellor Owen.

Dr. Pat Wall, Interim Dean, took the floor and declared a quorum of the faculty was present, and at this time he introduced Dr. Bill Owen, Chancellor.

Dr. Owen wished to offer some updates since his last town hall meeting approximately a month ago. First, a new Vice Chancellor of Public Relations has been identified, Sandra Mays, who comes to us from the Memphis Housing Authority. He emphasized the importance of addressing a branding problem with this position. Joining her will be Sheila Champlin as the new communications and marketing director.

Next the Chancellor announced the selection of the new executive dean for the college of medicine at UTHSC, Dr. Steve Schwab. Dr. Schwab was one of 3 final candidates for the position and comes to us from the Medical College of Georgia. He will be using some of his vacation to start here on campus in July rather than August.

Chancellor Owen overviewed the campus strategy session recently held in Nashville and said that a blog and website had been posted on the UTHSC site to give a comprehensive description of what happened at the meeting. He also referred to his search for a local chairperson in an upcoming $10M capital campaign. Pitt Hyde was asked but declined. However, Dr. Owen emphasized that Mr. Hyde had a generally positive attitude about the offer and would have taken on the role had he more time, but he has offered his support and endorsement. In closing, Dr. Owen indicated that he had completed his annual review with President Petersen and will be posting his evaluation on the campus website.

Tony Ferrara, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Planning, was introduced. Mr. Ferrara outlined that a new budgeting process starting in the departments and going up to the Chancellor’s office had been implemented this year rather than the other way. This process started in March/April this year but the goal is to start in January/February for next year. His office is still in the process of accumulating the needs from the 6 colleges and the institution. He indicated that numbers would be available to the departments sometime next month. Dr. Wall interjected that the administrative council, of which he is a part, acts as a conduit for information from the Chancellor.

Dr. Richard Peppler was introduced and presented the class of 2006 for certification. Dr. Peppler indicated that this was the first class under the curriculum change which involved the students' clinical services being moved up by two months. He also emphasized that this class went deeper into the alternate list than any other year. He gave the following statistics in summary: 87% from 8/2002 were graduating on time, two of the graduates had 4.0 grade point averages and were receiving faculty medals, 97% had passed step 1 with an average of 213 (all but one passed step
one on subsequent tries and that one has since left), 95% passed step 2 with an average of 223 (all but one has subsequently passed). A motion was made to certify the class and was passed unanimously.

A motion was made to open the floor for nominations for officers of the COM faculty for 2006-2007. None were made. Renate H Rosenthal, PhD was introduced as the new president-elect and E. Haavi Morreim, PhD as the secretary.

Dean Wall gave a presentation on past and future challenges facing the college which is posted on the DFAC website. The presentation had information related to traditional partners of the college, the UTMG “Manhattan Project”, COM organization changes and faculty issues. Dr. Wall also presented some information on the CRC with an emphasis that faculty should consider using it. It was reported that the CRC needs more activity, is not as restrictive especially with regard to industry sponsored activity, can supply study coordination and patient recruitment services. Dr. Wall ended his presentation by indicating a big test for the COM will be in November when LCME has a site visit scheduled. He also reported that everyone had matched for this year and that the faculty should consider participating in the upcoming Dean’s convocation/Graduation on May 26, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

For the Secretary,

Thaddeus A. Wilson, Ph.D.