

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

February 7, 2020

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Burt Sharp, at 12:05 PM on February 7, 2022, on the Zoom online platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Penny A. Asbell, MD, Kevin Beier, MD, EM, Suleiman W. Bahouth, PhD, Dave Bhattacharya, MD, James Bienvenu, MD, Ryan Buckley, MD, Charlie Busby, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Julio F. Cordero-Morales, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Ian Gray, MD, Patrick McConville, MD, F. Matthew Mihelic, MD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Katherine Nearing, MD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Joy Steadman, MD, Neena Thomas-Gosain, MD, Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C

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

Scott Strome, MD, Fruz Pourmotabbed, PhD, Andrew Griffith, MD, PhD, Polly Hofmann, PhD

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Dr. Strome provided his monthly update. The volume of services we provide at ROH has steadily risen. The Cancer Infusion unit has grown markedly, more than doubling since its inception in October 2020. The same is occurring in gastroenterology. Dr. Strome also noted that a new chair of Plastic Surgery has been hired, as well as a new vascular surgeon, with yet another vascular surgeon yet to come. Progress is moving forward with hiring a new breast surgeon. The new chair of Ob-Gyn is a gynecological surgeon who will join us in April. In Ophthalmology we have an interim chair, and a new chair for that department is expected to be identified soon.

On the research front, a new protocol with ROH is being signed, which will bring us into collaboration with E TN State and other institutions. Nevertheless, we continue to have challenges in undertaking research at ROH. Dr. Strome will be exploring further the reasons underlying these challenges.

Our CTSA, grant application, led by Dr. Karen Johnson got a very good score, though it is not yet clear whether it will be funded.

Regarding GME: An outside firm is helping us to identify every potential issue so that all can be addressed. Most of the recommended corrective action plans have already been implemented, and Dr. Strome is hopeful we will be off probation by the end of this calendar year.

Regarding LCME: Some past events have come into play. From 2014-18, medical student evaluations of the quality of their education were in a significant decline. By 2018 we may have been the lowest in the country. Since 2018, however, corrective action has been implemented and we are now in the 50%-ile or so. Other parameters likewise declined beginning around 2014, and significant recovery has occurred with corrective actions – eg basic science, preparedness for residency. At this point it is not clear what our accreditation status will be. LCME evaluation provides something of a 'lagging indicator,' in the sense that it at least partly reflects the past as well as the present. It is not possible to ignore medical education for 5 years and expect that there will be no consequences. Dr. Strome indicated that, even though our LCME evaluation may not be entirely favorable, we are heading in the right direction, and have made significant progress on all parameters. The progress is attributable, in significant measure, to changes in leadership within the CoM and the dean's office, new data management systems, revamping the admissions committee, increasing student interactions, reducing student debt, and hiring chairs who believe in the importance of student education.

On the matter of branding, Dr. Strome described a new identity is being considered: something on the order of "UTennHealth" or the like. A name like "University of Tennessee College of Medicine" is a bit cumbersome, and a new name such as this could be more readily identifiable.

Finally, Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer, co-chair of DFAC's Research Committee reported on recent discussions in their meetings. One major problem that the research committee identified was that the CoM has limited control over the research enterprise in the CoM, because most resources have been centralized in office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research. The Research Committee plans to address this imbalance with the new chancellor, Dr. Peter Buckley. Chancellor Buckley will join us in the next DFAC meeting. Dr. Sharp asked DFAC to identify the top three challenges for the CoM faculty, and to suggest some directions that would be most helpful.

Further discussion concerned how DFAC can best use Dr. Buckley's visit with DFAC next month, if he is able to join us then.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 7, 2022, at 12:00n CT / 1pm ET by Zoom.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary