

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

November 4, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Phyllis Richey, at 12:04 PM on November 4, 2024, in person and on the Zoom online platform.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Mark Bugnitz, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Tina Dudley, MD, Natalie Dunlap, DO, Jay Fowke, PhD, MPH, MS, Rajeshwary Ghosh, PhD, Ian Gray, MD, Natalie Kerr, MD, MBA, Patrick Koo, MD, Khyati Kothari, MD, Chris Ledbetter, MD, Francesca-Fang Liao, PhD, Patrick McConville, MD, F. Matthew Mihelic, MD, Erica Mitchell, MD, MEd SE, FACS, DFSVS, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Christopher Parker-Rajewski, MB, BCH, BAO, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Phyllis Richey, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Nir Shimony, MD, Evan Ward, DHSc, PA-C, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Tracy McClinton, DNP, AGACNP-BC, APRN, HGET-C, EBP-C

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

G. Nicholas Verne, MD, James W Haynes, MD (dean, Chattanooga campus), Chris Trabue, MD (chair, Dept. of Clinical Medical Education, Nashville campus)

Approval of minutes

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

Business

Pres. Richey announced that the faculty vote on proposed college bylaws (a change to criteria for appointment in or promotion to specific academic ranks, the addition of a candidate letter added to APPENDIX C and the provision for multi-year appointments) had been disseminated to the faculty and would close on 11/6/24. Although a quorum has already been reached, all representatives were asked to encourage their department colleagues to vote.

Pres. Richey invited Dean Verne to update the DFAC. He responded that a master affiliation agreement with Methodist was approved last month by the Board of Trustees. It is similar to ones we have had in the past. Regarding chair searches: in the Dept of Medical Education, 5 candidates will be interviewed in the near future, in the hope of finalizing an appointment by December 1. The Department of Pathology search is moving forward, and interview dates with 8 preliminary candidates will soon begin. The Department of Pediatrics chair search will work with a search firm, and likely will move forward in January.

Pres. Richey introduced Dr. James Haynes, who is dean at the Chattanooga regional campus, as a guest. As the meeting proceeded, he offered his perspective on several issues discussed.

Pres. Richey then invited Dr. McClinton, president of the Faculty Senate, to share any updates relevant to the College of Medicine. Dr. McClinton indicated that every faculty member, not just senators, is welcome to attend Faculty Senate meetings. She stated that results from the COACHE survey of last spring will be shared at the upcoming meeting, along with preparations for the next COACHE survey. In the context of the recent death of a medical student, she also emphasized the importance of wellness offerings in the College of Medicine.

Pres. Richey noted that the three committees are just beginning their efforts, hence have limited work to share. However, SharePoint sites have been set up for each committee to be used by members to share documents, resources and to help facilitate collaboration on projects.

Dr. Larry Pfeffer, Research Committee Co-Chair, indicated that the Research Committee will be working on enhancing ways to collaborate and facilitate research, including with the regional campuses, among faculty, fellows, residents and students. One goal is to submit two NIH T32 grant applications that the Research Committee would assist in facilitating. While one of the applications would focus on clinical research, the other would focus on basic science, and both would be directed toward providing an opportunity for college-wide clinician researcher training for residents and fellows, including on those at the regional campuses. DFAC discussion then turned to some of the logistics of such an effort, e.g., emphasizing the need to select target Institutes for the applications and begin a dialogue with the respective Program Officers. Additionally, it may be desirable to slant the applications toward areas in which previous COM training programs have a history of success. It was also noted that a “Clinical Scholars” program has been offered by the Department of Preventive Medicine for clinician researcher training. Pres. Richey confirmed that an evolved version of that training program is still active in the Department of Preventive Medicine, and it regularly engages COM faculty wanting training in research methodology and grantsmanship. Further discussion noted that NIH K-Series grants are another mechanism for career development awards which provide support and protected time for faculty to develop research skills to become highly trained research scientists. Given training grant applications are very labor-intensive, the Research Committee will begin planning and solicit commitments from key personnel very soon with the potential goal of submitting the clinical application for Cycle I 2025 and the basic science application for Cycle II 2025. Dean Haynes (Chattanooga) noted a concern over the release time required for a research training program and emphasized that it must respect residents and fellows’ clinical time commitments. Therefore, allowing grant recipients to take a year to focus on research should be a consideration during planning and development of the COM research training program.

Dr. Claudette Shepherd, Policy Committee Chair, commented that the CoM ByLaws currently out for faculty vote may need a small change, regarding who can supervise students, to comport with LCME regulations. This will not need a major change, but nevertheless needs to be done. Dr. Shepherd will reach out to the committee members to schedule a meeting to begin addressing the committee’s activities for the year.

Drs. Kothari and Gray, DFEC committee co-chairs, indicated that the group has begun to identify its agenda for the year. One issue they will work on concerns simplifying or streamlining the application process for new faculty.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on December 2, 2024, at 12:00n CT / 1pm ET by Zoom and in person in room 502, 910 Madison building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary