

SUNY Downstate Medical Center
EXECUTIVE (Centerwide) COMMITTEE of the Faculty and Professional Staff
Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, August 11, 2014
4:00 PM – 5:00PM

Attending:

Presiding Officer	Stephan Rinnert, MD
Secretary & University Faculty Senator	Henry Flax, EdD
Presiding Officer, College of Nursing	Sandra Maldonado
Presiding Officer, School of Public Health	Daniel Ehlke, PhD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Mathew Foley, MD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Steven Kang, MD

Unable to Attend:

Past Presiding Officer & University Faculty Senator	Miriam Vincent, MD, PhD, JD (off-campus meeting)
Presiding Officer, College of Health Related Professions	Angela Griffin, PT, PhD
Presiding Officer, College of Medicine	Rauno Joks, MD
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Medicine	Allen Norin, PhD
Presiding Officer, School of Graduate Studies	Katherine Perkins, PhD (vacation)
Presiding Officer Elect, School of Graduate Studies	Nicholas Pennington, PhD
Presiding Officer Elect, School of Graduate Studies	John Kubie, PhD
Presiding Officer Elect, School of Public Health	Paul Landsbergis, PhD, EdD, MPH
University Faculty Senator	Kathleen Powderly, PhD
University Faculty Senator	Helen Durkin, PhD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Virginia Anderson, MD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Farhad Haeri, DPT
Recording Secretary	Migdalia Gaston

Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Dr. Flax was unable to obtain the most recent set of minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2014 (note: based on a subsequent conversation with Migdalia Gaston, the June minutes will be available for approval at our September 2014 meeting).

Upcoming Meetings:

The members of the committee established meeting dates for the entire year. The committee will meet on the 2nd Monday of each month, unless those dates conflict with a national or state holiday (note: the schedule was sent to the Committee on Friday, August 29, 2014.).

Presiding Officer's Report:

Presiding Officer Stephan Rinnert welcomed everyone and those members in attendance introduced themselves to the body.

Dr. Rinnert provided the body with his main goal for the year - to move the Centerwide Committee to an active committee representing the needs of the faculty and professional staff of Downstate. He envisions our group as a liaison between the leadership of Downstate Medical Center and the faculty and staff. He would like to develop open communications between President Williams and the faculty and professional staff. Dr. Rinnert continued with an explanation of the history of Downstate Medical Center's involvement with the University Faculty Senate (UFS). He noted that we have moved from a moribund state to one of full participation. With our most recent election, we now have filled all four of our senatorial seats and have four alternate senators as well.

Dr. Rinnert revised the agenda to focus on goals for the upcoming year. He stated that he is most concerned about the academic aspects of our institution and wants our committee to focus on these:

- 1) The administration's philosophy of moving forward without the input from shared governance bodies.
- 2) Concerned about the Provost model rumored to be under discussion for our campus.
- 3) Concerned about rumors of an appointed Vice President for Faculty Development.
- 4) Parking - while not personally concerned about the parking situation, Dr. Rinnert opened discussion about this item of old business. Dr. Foley noted that this issue occupied much of the spring combined meeting of the Center-wide and College of Medicine. Dr. Ehlike sensed that the issue is out of Downstate's purview and that it is for the SUNY Construction Fund. Drs. Rinnert and Flax were charged to meet with Dr. Williams and obtain a status report on the parking deck.

Dr. Foley concurred with Dr. Rinnert's overall goals and stated that the next 2 – 3 years in Downstate's existence are critical to the continuation of the institution. Dr. Rinnert advised the committee that Ian Taylor is stepping down as Dean of the College of Medicine effective September 1. Senior Associate Dean Pamela Sass will assume the position of Interim Dean.

CHRP also lost its dean on June 30, 2014; Dr. Margaret Kaplan has been appointed Interim Dean of CHRP.

Dr. Rinnert wondered aloud whether there is a strategic plan for the institution going forward.

In response to a question regarding the University Faculty Senate's role vis a vis our local issues, Dr. Rinnert advised the group that the discussion of local issues is limited at UFS meetings, unless such issues were indicative of a system-wide issue (e.g., the Board of Trustees' violation of their own policies regarding Presidential searches affecting Downstate, Morrisville and other campuses). For the sake of the new alternate senators, Dr. Rinnert explained the organization and conduct of the UFS plenary sessions. He urged all senators and alternates to attend. Dr. Flax reminded everyone that the UFS Fall Plenary will be held on October 23 – 25, 2014 at the SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry in Syracuse, NY.

Old Business:

By-laws update and review – With the help of Dr. Vincent and Anthony Sanderson, Dr. Flax received a scanned version of the by-laws and revisions that occurred last spring. Unfortunately, the scanned document is exceedingly difficult to work with and Dr. Flax will attempt to have it rescanned to a format that is more "user friendly". Once done, it will be posted on the website.

Constituent Reports:

The College of Health Related Professions, the College of Nursing, the College of Medicine, the School of Graduate Studies and the School of Public Health Reports were deferred to a later date to provide time to hear the Senators' Report.

University Faculty Senate Report:

Dr. Rinnert provided a précis of the Spring Plenary (hosted by Empire State College, Saratoga Springs, NY) sessions and resolutions. There is continuing concern among the other campuses that Downstate's acquisition and subsequent attempted sale of LICH will have negative financial ramifications on the entire system and other individual campuses. Dr. Rinnert explained the organization of the sectors (Health Sciences Sector, Technical Colleges Sector, Special & Statutory Colleges Sector, University Centers Sector, Comprehensive Colleges Sector, Campus Governance Leaders). These sessions allow focused discussion among similar campuses with similar issues (e.g., Downstate and Upstate Medical University leadership issues with presidents and Chief Operating Officers, the role of publicly funded hospitals as part of a SUNY education. The precedent of the Buffalo HSC model, i.e., a medical school without its own hospital, appears to be the model that the Chancellery and the Board of Trustees would like to adopt). There was a discussion of the role of hospital management and their lack of understanding of the education of students. Dr. Foley interjected that UHB could survive on its own (LICH was the financial drag for many reasons). The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program will have additional implications for our survival. Dr. Rinnert continued with his explanation of the Plenary. Following the sector meetings, the sector heads pose questions to the Chancellor in open session. Due to the lack of time, Dr. Flax advised the committee that the resolutions adopted by the Senate at the plenary are available on the UFS website (<http://old.suny.edu/facultySenate/>). In addition to the sectors, the UFS has a committee structure. Dr. Flax advised the committee that individual faculty and professional staff members may join UFS Committees. Our campus has several UFS Committee members some of whom are NOT senators:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| i. Diversity & Cultural Competence Committee | Dr. Vincent |
| ii. Ethics & Institutional Integrity Committee | Dr. Powderly |
| iii. Graduate & Research Committee | Dr. Subrata Saha |
| iv. Operations Committee | Dr. Flax |
| v. Student Life Committee | Dr. Sandra Maldonado |

Other committees include Governance, Programs and Awards and Undergraduate committees.

2. **Health Sciences Sector Report** - Dr. Flax shared his written sector report of meeting at the Spring Plenary. The committee focused on the sector's questions to the chancellor and her responses. In addition, Dr. Rinnert noted that Dr. Flax was re-elected (unanimously) to serve as the Health Science Centers sector head for the 2014-2015 academic years.

New Business: Centerwide Issues

Dr. Flax requested that we address the lack of a budget line for the Center-wide Committee's activities (especially for UFS travel) with the President as soon as possible. Other business was deferred due to the lateness of the hour.

**Next Meeting: Monday, September 15, 2014 – 4:00 PM,
Pathology Department Conference Room (BSB, room 4-5).**

Dr. Flax moved to adjourn; Dr. Ehlke seconded the motion; meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry S. Flax, Ed.D.