

SUNY Downstate Medical Center
EXECUTIVE (Centerwide) COMMITTEE of the Faculty and Professional Staff
Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, September 15, 2014
4:00 PM – 5:00PM

Attending:

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| Presiding Officer | Stephan Rinnert, MD |
| Secretary & University Faculty Senator | Henry Flax, EdD |
| Presiding Officer, College of Health Related Professions | Angela Griffin, PT, PhD |
| Presiding Officer, College of Medicine | Allen Norin, PhD |
| Presiding Officer, School of Graduate Studies | Nicholas Pennington, PhD |
| Secretary, School of Public Health | Elizabeth Helzner for Daniel Ehlke, PhD |
| University Faculty Senator | Kathleen Powderly, PhD |
| University Faculty Senator | Helen Durkin, PhD |
| Alternate University Faculty Senator | Virginia Anderson, MD |
| Alternate University Faculty Senator | Mathew Foley, MD |

Unable to Attend:

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| Past Presiding Officer & University Faculty Senator | Miriam Vincent, MD, PhD, JD (sick) |
| Presiding Officer Elect, College of Health Related Professions | Kenneth Martinucci, |
| Past Presiding Officer, College of Medicine | Rauno Joks, MD |
| Presiding Officer Elect, College of Medicine | Clinton Brown, MD |
| Presiding Officer, College of Nursing | Veronica Arikian, RN (accreditation visit) |
| Presiding Officer Elect, College of Nursing | Sandra Maldonado, RN (accreditation visit) |
| Presiding Officer Elect, School of Graduate Studies | John Kubie, PhD |
| Presiding Officer Elect, School of Public Health | Paul Landsbergis, PhD, EdD, MPH |
| Alternate University Faculty Senator | Farhad Haeri, DPT |
| Alternate University Faculty Senator | Steven Kang, MD |
| Recording Secretary | Migdalia Gaston |

Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Mathew Foley moved, Kathleen Powderly seconded the approval of the minutes of the meeting of August 11, 2014; motion carried. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

Presiding Officer's Report:

Presiding Officer Stephan Rinnert reported on his meeting with President Williams earlier in the day on September 15th. The meeting was described as pleasant. Dr. Williams stated his belief in faculty governance. He was happy to learn that we have a full complement of senators and alternate senators.

Drs. Rinnert and Williams will continue to meet on a quarterly basis so that the president receives regular input from the faculty.

Dr. Williams believes in faculty development and has created a new position – VP for Faculty Development. Dr. Joseph Merlino has recently been appointed to fill the position. Dr. Rinnert advised the group that he has already met with Dr. Merlino to discuss faculty development).

Dr. Williams advised Dr. Rinnert that the following search committees have been constituted:

Dean, College of Medicine

Dean, College of Health Related Professions

Vice President, Hospital Affairs (formerly CEO, University Hospital of Brooklyn)

Dr. Rinnert raised the issue of the appointment of a Provost as rumors have been circulating among faculty with no information from central administration regarding this position. Dr. Williams advised

that this office is part of his strategic plan. The Deans will report to the Provost and we will have a permanent provost within one year. Dr. Williams has hired Dr. Susan Phillips from the University at Albany as an interim Provost to create the infrastructure for a Provost's Office.

Dr. Anderson interjected that the Pathology Department also needs a search for a permanent chair. Dr. Rinnert agreed and stated that there are several departments in need of permanent chairs.

Dr. Durkin noted that the campus needs a Vice President for Research since Dr. John Allen was removed and not replaced. Dr. Powderly noted that there are several searches that need to be prioritized.

Dr. Rinnert shared that Dr. Williams is hiring two staff for marketing purposes (including web page design).

Dr. Williams was questioned about the Chancellor's ideas and the rumors regarding the mergers of Upstate Medical University and Binghamton University and Downstate Medical Center and the University at Albany. Dr. Williams stated that he does not see these as realistic due to the size and budgets of the respective institutions. The MD/PhD joint program with the Nanoscience Program (formerly at Albany) is very small. There are potential School of Public Health programs which could be linked with Albany as well. Dr. Durkin stated that she and Dr. Joks had talked with U. at Albany School of Public Health faculty two years ago but nothing came of the discussions. She will follow up with Dr. Imperato, Dean of the School of Public Health. It was noted that the Institute of Human Rights, based in Albany, has done work at Downstate.

Dr. Williams stated that his priorities are to focus on Health Disparities and Immigrant Support.

Dr. Rinnert mentioned that the Simulation Center has been delegated to Ms. Astra Bain-Dowell.

Dr. Rinnert has requested a budget for faculty governance to be funded by the President's Office. A budget line of \$10,000 will be established. Dr. Powderly, as co-chair of the Middle States Work Group on Leadership & Governance, noted that the budget issue has also been presented to Dr. Bradley.

Dr. Anderson echoed the importance of faculty governance and faculty oversight, especially the faculty's role in curriculum. There is a need for faculty input for appointments. We need a status report on recruitment processes. Dr. Rinnert provided a brief explanation of the search committee process for departmental chairs.

Dr. Flax moved, Dr. Norin seconded a motion that search committees for senior administrative positions include leaders of faculty governance for the respective school. The motion carried.

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 – Dr. Flax has made no progress on having the by-laws rescanned to a format that is more “user friendly”. Once done, the document will be posted on the website.

Constituent Reports:

The College of Health Related Professions – Dr. Griffin reported that the summer session finished successfully. Total enrollment is 406 students. 100 new students enrolled during the summer orientation period (OT, PT, PA); 70 new students joined the college for the fall (DMI, Midwifery, HIM). The faculty are teaching and publishing.

The College of Medicine – Dr. Norin reported that the Executive Committee held its first meeting of the year last week. It is filling vacancies. This is the most active group since 2005.

The College of Nursing – as the college is in the midst of an accreditation site visit, there was no report.

The School of Graduate Studies – Dr. Pennington reported that the Executive Committee will have its first meeting during the first week of October.

The School of Public Health – Dr. Helzner reported that enrollment has grown from 220 to 248 in 2014. The school is preparing for an accreditation site visit in 2015. The self-study document is underway. Dr. Helzner questioned the body regarding a hold on tenure policy. Dr. Foley stated that he knows one person who earned tenure last month so he does not believe that to be true. Dr. Rinnert noted that private institutions are not granting tenure to faculty. He will invite Dr. Merlino to the next Centerwide Committee meeting to address this issue. Dr. Anderson noted that clinicians have no protected time for publications or research projects. Tenure is a departmentally based issue. In Radiology, only two faculty members are tenured. Dr. Rinnert noted that 15 members of the Emergency Medicine faculty are tenured. Dr. Norin described the tenure process. Dr. Rinnert asked that we use Dr. Merlino’s visit to discuss this issue in depth. Dr. Flax seconded the suggestion to invite Dr. Merlino with the caveat that we are prepared to talk as well as listen. Drs. Durkin and Griffin will develop issues to share with Dr. Merlino.

Dr. Flax moved to table the remainder of the agenda to the September meeting due to the lateness of the hour. Dr. Norin seconded the motion; the motion carried. The following will be on the September agenda:

University Faculty Senate Report

Old Business: - Parking Deck Status

New Business: Centerwide Issues

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2014 – 4:00 PM,
Pathology Department Conference Room (BSB, room 4-5).**

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

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