

**SUNY Downstate Medical Center**  
**EXECUTIVE (Centerwide) COMMITTEE of the Faculty and Professional Staff**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Monday, April 13, 2015**  
**4:00 PM – 5:00PM**

**Attending:**

Presiding Officer	Stephan Rinnert, MD
Secretary & University Faculty Senator	Henry Flax, EdD
Presiding Officer, College of Health Related Professions	Angela Griffin, PhD, PT
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Health Related Professions	Kenneth Martinucci, MS
Presiding Officer, College of Medicine	Allen Norin, PhD (via telephone)
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Medicine	Clinton Brown, MD
Presiding Officer, College of Nursing	Veronica Arikian, PhD, RN
Presiding Officer, School of Graduate Studies	Nicholas Penington, PhD
Presiding Officer, School of Public Health	Elizabeth Helzner for Daniel Ehlke, PhD
University Faculty Senator	Helen Durkin, PhD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Virginia Anderson, MD
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Farhad Haeri, DPT
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Steven Kang, MD

**Unable to Attend:**

Past Presiding Officer & University Faculty Senator	Miriam Vincent, MD, PhD, JD
Presiding Officer Elect, College of Nursing	Nancy Giordano, EdD, WHNP
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
Alternate University Faculty Senator	Mathew Foley, MD
Recording Secretary	Migdalia Gaston

**Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Mr. Martinucci moved, Dr. Penington seconded, the approval of the minutes of the meeting of Monday, March 9, 2015 as amended; motion carried.

**Presiding Officer's Report:**

Dr. Rinnert advised the body that he will be meeting with Dr. Williams on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

**Guest Speaker:**

Dr. Arikian introduced Dr. Shirley Girouard, the new Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, in the College of Nursing. Dr. Girouard shared her academic qualifications and education with the committee, including her PhD in Health and Social Policy, Brandeis University; her doctoral fellowship in Mental Health Economics, National Institute of Mental Health; an MSN in Medical-Surgical Nursing, Yale University; an MA in Medical Sociology, University of Connecticut; a Fellowship for Masters in Nursing, National Institute of Health; her BA in Sociology, Eastern Connecticut State College; and her diploma in Nursing, Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. Her various professional roles have included multiple roles in nursing. She has a self-described "eclectic background." Her research interests are in applied research. In Connecticut, she was involved in advocacy work transforming health care delivery. She is also interested in evaluation and measurement. Her role in the College of Nursing is in collaborative research for career development, and the support of CON and DMC activities. She elaborated on her HERSA Geriatric grant with Dr. Carl Cohen of the Psychiatry Department. They are involved with an interdisciplinary geriatric consultation service, as well as geriatric advocacy in our medical "homes". There are existing medical "homes" on campus servicing older adults. The consultation service is seen as a supplement to these existing services. This will begin July 1, 2015.

She is also working with the students involved in the Brooklyn Free Clinic. The focus is on using the data they have collected for quality assessment. She assists with a state grant for diversity. Developing modular curriculum.

Dr. Griffin is submitting a grant to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. What is the best way to establish collaboration across the medical center? Girouard provided examples of healthcare disparities. Dr. Anderson discussed her efforts in this area. Dr. Girouard noted that grant-makers look favorably on interdisciplinary collaboration. The deans can help. Dr. Cruz-Richman, Dean of the College of Nursing, is eager to collaborate with the other schools. Dr. Rinnert will include grant support as part of his discussion with President Williams. Dr. Brown suggested a survey to create mentor relationships across disciplines. Dr. Girouard stated that it needs to be interactive, while Dr. Rinnert reminded the group that it would need to be updated regularly.

Dr. Anderson noted the need for a strong, searchable Electronic Medical Record to do data mining for quality research on our community and our patients. Dr. Girouard asked about the ability to access data from New York State records. Dr. Brown mentioned the notebooks printed from Dorothy Fyfe's office. Dr. Girouard volunteered that HCOP data is available for the Department of Health. Dr. Griffin noted that central Brooklyn health statistics were last updated in 2006.

Dr. Rinnert inquired as to whether Dr. Girouard has been working with Dr. Coico in the College of Medicine (no). It will be important for centerwide governance to facilitate and create research consortia across colleges. When questioned about the School of Public Health, Dr. Helzner stated that potential SPH certificate funding can be obtained. Dr. Girouard noted the short turn-around time for grant preparation (typically 60 days). A health policy grant from within the College of Nursing has been submitted for \$10,000. A common meeting of the Scientific Review Committees is needed.

Dr. Girouard is interested in working with nurses on evidence-based practice in hospitals. Hospitals have research councils. Her focus would be on geriatric transitions from hospitals to homes, emergency room transitions, etc. Dr. Brown stated that we would need an organization to do these activities. Dr. Girouard countered that we need to identify major interests, then decide how to support the research. We need organize groups around areas, e.g., health disparities.

Dr. Rinnert thanked Dr. Girouard for her time with the committee. Dr. Helzner reiterated the opportunities for collaboration between the School of Public Health and the College of Nursing. Dr. Haeri noted the CHRP perspective for transition from hospitals to homes, especially from the Occupational and Physical Therapy programs. Dr. Girouard suggested foci across the medical center on older adults and pediatric patients.

Dr. Anderson asked about Governor Cuomo's Start Up New York program and whether we could organize small group community practices as part of it, since our educational programs generate the providers. Dr. Kang discussed two potential practice models. Dr. Girouard mentioned women's health practice models and online access to providers.

#### **Constituent Reports:**

**The School of Public Health** –Dr. Helzner reported on the SPH Executive Committee has had problems scheduling its Faculty Assembly meeting with President Williams.

**The College of Medicine** – Dr. Norin reported briefly on his meeting with Dr. Mark Stewart; he will report in detail at our next meeting.

**The College of Nursing** – Dr. Arikian will provide a full report at our May meeting. Admissions for the BS programs have been finalized. Graduate admissions decisions are ongoing.

**The College of Health Related Professions** –Dr. Griffin reported that the college will host its Convocation on May 20, 2015. Two community service awards will be presented. The college hosted its third “Brown Bag” session today. Two candidates for the dean’s position were interviewed today.

**The School of Graduate Studies** – Dr. Penington reported that Research Day was April 1; there were 120 presenters. The Dean and Dr. Penington met with the Executive Committee of the College of Medicine. Discussion included offers to MD/PhD students and changes to MD/PhD recruitment. Dr. Durkin asked whether last year’s admissions failure was an aberration. Dr. Penington responded that strong candidates felt that the research opportunities at Downstate are shallow. We need to showcase research opportunities to candidates in better ways. Dr. Norin stated that Dr. Stewart noted weaknesses in areas (e.g., cancer) where students have an interest but we don’t offer opportunities for research and study. Dr. Rinnert will refer this to President Williams.

#### **Open Discussion:**

Dr. Arikian asked about the Global Health Initiative. Dr. Rinnert will be discussing this with President Williams. Dr. Arikian also asked for an update on the incident involving a resident who had complained to the GME Committee and was then publicly admonished by his department chair as reported by Dr. Rinnert at our March 2015 meeting. Dr. Rinnert responded that he has left the investigation in Dr. Wadowski’s hands.

Dr. Rinnert asked about having a Social Media policy. Mr. Martinucci noted that one is being developed for CHRP. Dr. Rinnert has forwarded a medical student posting tot the dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Arikian noted the presence of “Rate My Professor” at college campuses.

#### **University Faculty Senate Report**

**Shared Governance Conference** – Dr. Rinnert attended and was not impressed with the caliber of the conference this year. Some institutions’ governance bodies have much more involved roles in their presidents’ leadership circles. Many campus governance leaders sit on their president’s leadership councils. Dr. Anderson inquired why this is not the case at Downstate. Dr. Rinnert indicated that our situation is an outgrowth of weak faculty governance and a history of faculty apathy. Dr. Anderson inquired about the College of Medicine Dean’s search. Dr. Durkin and Dr. Norin provided information about the current state of the search.

**UFS Plenary** - Dr. Flax asked the body to share agenda items for the upcoming UFS Plenary scheduled for April 23-25, 2015 in Plattsburgh, NY. As Dr. Flax has advised the Health Science Sector that he will be stepping down as Sector Head at the conclusion of the May Plenary, there will be an election for a new sector rep at the May Plenary.

#### **Old Business**

By-laws Update – Dr. Flax continues updating the PDF of our By-laws on our web site.

#### **New Business**

None presented.

#### **Adjournment**

Dr. Kang moved to adjourn, Dr. Penington seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry S. Flax, Ed.D., Secretary