

Executive Committee Meeting of the Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly

Agenda

- Presiding Officer's welcome remarks and presentation of the members
- New Business – Transformation of University Hospital
- Good and Welfare
- Adjourn

Meeting Called to Order: 4:00 pm, Tuesday, January 30th, 2024

Members Present:

In-person:	Zoom:
Clinton Brown	T'Shura Brown
Puneet Dhaliwa	Alithia Alleyne
Adiebonye Jumbo	Kathleen Brady
Chella Kamarajan	Jasmin Thomas
Edeline Mitton	Adie Jumbo
Allen Norin	Yosefa Pessin
Nicholas J. Penington	Robert Wong
Katherine Perkins	Caroline Rochon
Joanne Ritter-Teitel	Marianna Markell
Haseeb Siddiqui	Ramaswamy Viswanathan
Mark Stewart	Richard Kollmar

- PO Norin introduced Dr. Caroline Rochon.
- Dr. Rochon provided a presentation on the Transplant program at Downstate. She mentioned that the program was initially closed from 2011 to 2013 while renovations occurred on Nursing Station 82. The new facility is state of the art. Dr. Rochon discusses the importance of the transplant program and its importance within Brooklyn and the Brooklyn community. The Downstate program transplants serve 82% African American patients compared to 38% in Manhattan and 34% around the country. Since the program re-opened, they have done the program reopened we've been doing. We did 61 last year. They had 60 this year. But the list is still growing. Referrals are the most they've ever been since we're tracking data. Electronically, they added 547 referrals last year.
- PO Norin asked about the revenue from transplants to the hospital. Downstate is that the finances are not always transparent and can be challenging to track.
- Dr. Rochon stated that the program made at least \$ 12 million.
- Member Pennington stated that the highlights from the Transplant program should highlighted more broadly.
- Member Bratby added that because Downstate is baby-friendly, Dr. Sarah Marshall and all the work done in community teaching related to maternal mortality, it's a tremendous effort to distinguish Downstate in ways the community would come out and support.
- Member Brown states that we at Downstate don't do very well. We used to do a better job of advertising to get the word out and engage the community. At one time, we used to invite the community to come in, and Benjamin would set up lectures from different divisions to talk to the patients and speak to the community. We don't do that anymore.
- PO Norin states that there was an attempt by the administration to put together a task force, and the task force would have the mission of upgrading programs at the hospital. The meeting was canceled at the Chancellor level. So, I think that in the coming days. I will try to put together a subcommittee to look into the programs we might enhance that would generate additional income in addition to the 12 million that's coming. But the question is that 12 million? Do we actually see that money?

Executive Committee Meeting of the Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly

- Dr. Rochon said that she's estimating the numbers. However, the problem is that we need to know the numbers, which is frustrating.
- PO Norin thanked Dr. Rochon for her time.
- PO Norin mentioned that Keith Landa, who's the President of the Faculty Senate and has a seat on the board on the Board of Trustees, contacted him and asked for help to arrange a meeting between the presiding officers of the colleges and school and myself to meet with people from the Chancellor's office. That meeting took place last Thursday. The meeting was run by Valerie Gray, who is a staff member on the board.
- PO Norin asked Ms. Gray - How long have you worked on the hospital closure? The reply was 9 months. The Chief of Staff from the Chancellor's office was also at the meeting. So, they've been working on this for a long time. And we've been left in the dark about what they're doing and how they're doing it. But I can tell you that we asked them a number of questions. They had the answers. They had already thought out all of this previously. They will try to have a budget in place by the end of March to carry us till the end of December 2024. This is a very difficult situation. Given the planning that they've gone through and the lack of information that we have.
- Member Stewart replied that he saw the Chancellors' presentation. It states that there would be \$300 million to help alter the existing hospital or make other arrangements for inpatient services. They estimate \$200 million to cover annual losses in the hospital at 100 million a year. An expression of interest in health disparities. They seem to get a message inside the hospital that it's beyond repair. What's hurting us now is that so many upstate 2 and 4-year schools are under great financial distress, and you throw Downstate on top of it.
- Member Kolmar added that Downstate was the first to use the stethoscope around 150 years ago. But if we can point to specific issues and how to solve them, or maybe they're unsolvable, perhaps they will certainly listen.
- Member Bratby asked, with Kings County right across the street, if there was any comment or thinking about that playing a role in any way with some of this decision. And some of the way they're even looking at addressing the issues?
- PO Norin replied that we do not know who's talking to the county.
- Member Penington discussed the effect of the hospital closing on the medical school. 500 people showed up to the Union meeting yesterday. Also, the Union will attempt to block that 300 million dollars that is supposed to go to King's County.
- Member Ritter-Teitel added that the College of Nursing had a strong admissions year with a good pool of applicants, but we are beginning to see, because of the announcements that have been made, questions from our candidates. There will be an impact, but it certainly is concerning that we don't have a set of talking points and a solid message to go out to all of the student candidates considering the University to have a further reduction in admissions. We have been suffering that nationally, and certainly at SUNY. I think that is a point of attention that the leaders of the colleges need to attend to and keep at the forefront of the radar screen for action.
- Secretary Mitton added that because the message is so inconsistent, students on social media are talking to each other and incoming students, which will likely bring down the admission rates.
- Member Alleyne stated that the students were asking questions. Is it closing? They're not listening for the fine details of it. It's just the hospital, not the school. The rumor is out that we are closing. We are closing, and the nail that hit us was we were a COVID hospital. We have to think about rotating and graduating students. There was no shared governance. Faculty governance was not involved. How is it that they have just announced these plans? And now they're trying to backpedal. They never got the perspective of the faculty and the staff.
- Member Bratby - Where are our Senators and Representatives? We need to get them involved.
- Dr. Wong - if we want to collect the information about how clinical departments will be impacted. Each chair has written a report that they present to the Teams Council on a weekly basis.
- Member Alleyne - We need this information so that wherever we advocate, we know this information. We must share whatever we have-- facts and data; and be data-driven.
- Dr. Wong - This will affect LCME, ACGME, clinical research, and the current Middle States reaccreditation.

Executive Committee Meeting of the Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly

- Member Alleyne – the PA program has 300 slots at Downstate. These are significant numbers of things we would have. That's just one of our 6 programs. Please send out an email to the Deans asking them about their slots. I think they already gave this information to the administration, but it would be great for you to ask for it so that we have the data to use it.
- Member Bratby—Asked about the impact on faculty recruitment because the alternate clinical placements potentially require faculty to leave the area. In many cases, these are Brooklyn-based faculty, and they don't necessarily want to go to Manhattan, Connecticut, or Pennsylvania. There are also faculty implications to support placements.
- Member Jumbo—Is it possible to ask for those hard numbers from the Chancellor? In other words, how did he make those decisions regarding revenue, expenditures, and losses? We need some kind of information. We need to see the figure. How was it determined?
- Member Dhaliwal—I just have a question about students' attitudes and beliefs about the hospital's impact on their education. Current students, prospective students, and alumni can provide better data by conducting an anonymous survey, like a simple Google survey, throughout the schools to alumni and prospective students.
- Our department Chair (PT) emailed prospective internships and clinical rotations. Because we're currently in the cycle, we wanted to send a collective email or at least have a specific wording we would like to use when we interview students.
- Member Jumbo - we should get our students involved. We need student representation.

NEW BUSINESS

- None to report

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.