



March 6, 2024 Centerwide Executive Committee Meeting

Agenda

- Approval of the minutes from the February executive meeting
- Presiding Officer's welcome remarks and presentation of the members
- Old Business
- New Business.
- Good and Welfare
- Adjourn

Meeting Called to Order: 4:00 pm Via Zoom

Members Present:

Allen Norin Edeline Mitton Alithia Alleyne Nicolas Penington Katherine Perkins Ramaswamy Viswanathan Chella Kamarajan Cristopher Roman Lori Hoepner Natalie Ferguson Samuel Marquez	Veronica Arikian T'Shura Brown Joan Ritter Daniel Ehlke Nkiruka Nwokoye Adiebonye Jumbo Veronica Anikran Jasmin Thomas Mark Stewart Clinton Brown Richard Kollmar Katherine Bratby Robert Wong (non-member)
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PO Norin stated that he has a series of emails to be sent to different parties. He also stated that an update was given about reducing the number of beds in a hospital. Even that has to go through a legal process. The first thing that has to be done is a written plan, which is sent to the New York State Department of Health Division of Hospitals for them to approve of the plan. According to the statute, closure or reduction in hospital beds is proposed. Therefore, until the New York State Department of Health has reviewed the plan of action? If that didn't take place, the Chancellor's office would be in violation of the statute. SUNY will adhere to all legal and regulatory requirements applicable to New York State licensed healthcare facilities, depending on downstate hospitals' final details. transformation plans that are still under development.

PO Norin also mentioned that he had a meeting with Valerie Gray. She is the person in the Chancellor's office leading the charge to close the hospital and was hired about 10 months ago by the Chancellor. He received an email from her asking for another meeting, which will take place on March eighth, which is Friday.

Member Stewart remarked that perhaps it's to provide additional information. Because we were asked to start looking at dates, we could attend a meeting that preceded any discussion we've had about these letters.

PO Norin stated that the letters were sent to the Chancellor's office, and she was CC. The letters contain the statements of the chairs and an executive summary.

Member Stewart states that her request to meet came well before anything was sent from this campus. Also, in the College of Medicine Executive Committee, we discussed sending out our endorsement of the chair's letter. The group felt pretty strongly about sending copies to every member of the Board of Trustees and then a list of other people they had. There is an executive committee meeting for the College of Medicine. It's planned for tomorrow at 4, so hopefully, we'll be putting the finishing touches on our cover letter. I mean it. It will be straightforward; it'll say we endorse the chairs. Also, some points were raised about amplifying the message about the impact on the educational enterprise.

PO Norin remarked that the statement by the chairs was sent to Fred Kowal, the UUP President, Keith Landa, the Chancellor's office, Valerie Gray, the Chief of Staff, Ian Rosenblum, and Dr. Riley to let him know that it was forwarded to the Chancellor.

The message to the Chancellor reads-- dear Chancellor King attached. Please find a statement regarding the closure of the hospital authored by the chairs of the Downstate College of Medicine. Additionally, there is an executive summary of the statement Co. Authored by members of the Executive Committee of the Downstate Assembly of the Faculty and professional staff. The Assembly Executive Committee voted 24 to one. There is no vote to endorse these documents and distribute them as requested by the chairs.: Please consider alternate plans to improve the University Hospital of downstate or inpatient services rather than termination of inpatient services. We look forward to working with you to do so.

Member Perkins stated that she made a shortlist. We should send the statements to the people whose districts are encircling Downstate.

Member Kamarajan suggests sending it to New York State Senators, and not say State Senators, Federal Senators representing New York State Schumer.

Member Penington suggests social media. Also, our alumni. Member Brown suggests the clergies.

Alithia Alleyne mentioned that UUP was at Albany yesterday. They went to Albany and met with the legislators, the Speaker, and some of the governors' people. So, they did a lobby day yesterday. UUP has had a big lobby day for the last two days, and there were about 15 people from Downstate.

Member Jumbo asked if any of the news stations came to the hospital.

Member Roman stated that it's tough to get media coverage. WABC News reported that the hospital was crumbling when the announcement first came out. It seems that major news outlets have already assumed that extreme posture.

Member Kamarajan asked how we counteract that message.



PO Norin suggests we invite the reporters to come to the hospital.

Member Kamarajan mentioned that an outside consultant group from the state organized the meeting last week. They asked questions about what the transition should look like, and those of us in attendance suggested they speak to the clinical chairs.

Alithia Alleyne reminds everyone that everything is data-driven. The letter gives gravitas to all of the arguments. We may have some legislators supporting us because there has been such an overwhelming swell against the governor's proposal. If they're not letting the hospital close, we still have to think about what we want.

Member Jumbo: Coney Island--the entire new building cost only 1 billion dollars. A new hospital will be ideal.

PO Norin requests approval of the minutes.

Member Penington suggested one correction.

Motioned made, minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Member T. Brown: I asked the group if Downstate has a policy on fire evacuation. Do we have a marshal in place? What are the technical procedures? Does Downstate have a policy on fire evacuation or any emergency protocol? Or where can the information be found? I understand there's typically a marshal assigned, but where does one find that information? Each department is supposed to have a fire marshal.

Member C. Brown suggests contacting environmental services.

Alithia Alleyne: There is one for the hospital but not for the educational building. There have been many meetings, but we are not sure of the outcome.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM