



April 25, 2024

Executive Committee of the Faculty & Professional Staff Assembly Meeting

Agenda

- Presiding Officer's welcome remarks
- Old Business
- New Business.
- Good and Welfare
- Adjourn

Meeting Called to Order: 4:00 pm Via Zoom

Members Present:

Allen Norin Edeline Mitton Cristopher Roman Alithia Alleyne Katherine Bratby Clinton Brown T'Shura Brown Puneet Dhaliwal Daniel Ehlke Natalie Ferguson Lori Hoepner Adie Jumbo	Chella Kamarajan Richard Kollmar Samuel Marquez Nkiruka Nwokoye Vikram Pagpatan Nicolas Penington Joan Ritter Mark Stewart Ramaswamy Viswanathan
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PO Norin calls the meeting to order at 4 PM.

Member Hoepner gave the Senators a comprehensive report on the latest legislative developments. Regarding the legislature, the Chancellor had few comments during our meeting at UFS due to the pending budget that needed to be passed. He mentioned that the budget still needed to be passed and that the proposed idea was to allocate \$300 million plus an additional \$100 million over two years for a total of \$500 million. However, he emphasized that this was not confirmed until the budget was passed. The Chancellor also mentioned the political challenges involved, alluding to the dissatisfaction expressed by some politicians regarding the proposed changes for the hospital. He noted that despite the objections, none of them attempted to propose an alternative to the amount requested by the governor.

It was also acknowledged that there would be a commission and that constituents were already inquiring about it. The upcoming meeting with the Chancellor may provide more information. During the meeting at UFS, it was made clear that the Chancellor recognized the concerns about the leadership at

Downstate, particularly the administrative leadership, and the strongly disputed denial by David Berger of the deficits at Downstate. Valerie Gray attempted to explain the confusion surrounding a \$25 million loan to Downstate, referencing information on the Downstate website. Evidently, there was a communication breakdown reflected in the email supposedly sent by President Riley's office. Doubts about the authenticity of the email and the belief that it did not originate from his office arose.

Member Viswanathan emphasized the need for increased funding and expressed reservations about renovating certain hospital units. A collective effort is underway to persuade stakeholders to reconsider their stance and collaborate with legislators to secure additional funding, with a potential target of \$750 million.

Member Brown: Are we talking about the nine-member Commission that will give a report by April for the first 2025?

PO Norin: Affirm that the original proposed date to close the hospital was December 30, 2024. And yes, the talk is of the nine-member commission; he also stated that from his understanding, the goal of the governor's office is still to close the hospital.

Member Marques -Discuss the points made by PO Norin and affirm that his sources do not question the intention mentioned. Considering historical community opposition, the Governor's office meticulously planned the hospital's closing. However, it seems there was a miscalculation regarding the potential discontent. Nonetheless, it's clear that the intention remains the same. As for Kings County, there are existing connections and potential benefits from further collaboration. He yields to others for their input on the matter.

Member Pagpatan made some insightful remarks during the meeting--One point that stood out was the potential relocation of the projected outpatient center to the parking lot structure. Chancellor King seemed to be considering relocating various services related to the existing parking lot to the other side of Lennox Road. Additionally, there was a suggestion to explore a collaboration with Northwell in Brooklyn, potentially linking downstate services with Manhattan to Long Island or even connecting with Queens and Nassau County. It was highlighted that a collaboration with Northwell in Brooklyn could be beneficial, especially considering the lack of an existing collaboration.

PO Norin: states that it was considered several years ago, and it got dropped. The relationship between Kings County Hospital and Downstate has vacillated over the years. However, there has been interaction at the department level in the College of Medicine.

Member Stewart emphasizes that economics plays a significant role in people's decision-making process when seeking medical care at their facility. He mentions that hospital systems like Northwell and Downstate have explored different options and prefer to engage with a safety net. They want to avoid sharing losses and confine them to their own institutions. Member Stewart also notes that major competitors are setting up sites to attract well-insured patients and bring them back to their facilities for care. This ongoing issue has led to the exploration of sharing services at different hospitals in Brooklyn by other systems.

Member Viswanathan remarked that the economic mix of our surrounding community will change. Hopefully, if patients don't go to Manhattan, they walk a few blocks to University Hospital.

Several members reflected on the lack of marketing of the hospital and its services. Using billboards for advertisement will help improve things.

Member Roman remarked that Downstate should be thoughtful about what is being promoted in its advertisements. What services and degree of competence will future clients have in coming to have your services if their perception is that the State will not support them? Member Roman agrees that marketing is important but needs to be contextualized. The most important message is that the hospital is not going to close. That's the most important marketing message that should be bannered everywhere. However, historically, he questions whether or not the SUNY system is interested in growing a healthcare business at Downstate and then competing with these not-for-profit hospitals that are trying to back you up privately insured clients.

Member Ferguson mentioned that there is advertising for other hospitals at the bus stop right in front of the hospital, not Downstate. She mentioned it to the Chancellor and said it was horrendous that we are not advertising Downstate and that other hospitals are advertising in front of us. The Chancellor noted the comment.

PO Norin: Reported that he and several other senators were invited to a Zoom Meeting next week on May 2nd. The meeting would be with the Chancellor's office staff, such as Valerie Gray, and the Chancellor would be on Zoom. As a result, the clinical chairs forwarded a document, a plan for the hospital's downstate location. PO Norin asked that the committee members review it and offer any comments, criticisms, or additions. PO Norin also asked the members to vote whether the executive Committee is endorsing the plan. Once agreed upon, the plan will be distributed at the May second meeting, which was called by the Chancellor's office ahead of what they have to say.

Member Marquez wanted clarification on who crafted the proposed plan.

PO Norin affirmed that it was the Clinical Chairs of the hospital.

Members discussed the timeline to review and respond to the proposal, which is 11 pages long.

Member Kollmar remarked that the plan should also outline how closing the hospital will damage our mission and what needs to be maintained, at least with the hospital, to keep us at the forefront of our teaching needs. The education mission must be included in it.

PO Norin reassures that the Clinical Chairs are open to adding, subtracting, and modifying what they've written to improve the plan.

Member Bratby states that anything that does not reflect that it was an interprofessional collaborative effort would diminish our strength to develop any plan going forward. Perhaps it is to other colleagues regarding their representation within it, the strength they can bring to the document, and the shared commitment that we all have to the importance of the hospital and our professional schools' education programs. She feels that we should emphasize the interprofessional, collaborative aspect of the impact of this initiative against Downstate. It just undermines everything in terms of where we all want to go.



It'll allow us to recommit to each other and a unified approach to this plan. For what it's worth, I offer that as a thought.

PO Norin reiterated that all ideas and comments will be passed on to the Clinical Chairs.

PO Norin asked for a motion to approve the last meeting minutes. Two edits are to be made to last names. The motion was granted.

Good and Welfare

Member Viswanathan announced that on May 9th, his department is holding a celebratory conference in the morning at PHAB Hall to celebrate the department's achievements. He will also become the president of the American Psychiatric Association, a 39,000-member organization that is the world's largest psychiatric organization. He's the first person from Brooklyn, as well as the entire SUNY system, to become the president of this organization. He hopes all will attend at least part of the time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM