

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine

April 5, 2021

Attendees: R. Viswanathan, J. Kubie, C. Persaud, R. Gupta, K. Powderly, S. Rabinowitz, J. Yusuff, S. Agarwal, R. Jackman, M. Nowakowski, H. Siddiqi, S. Fisher, B. McNeil, J. Lazar, S. Marquez

Guest: Dean Brunicardi

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Viswanathan and was approved revision.

Dean Brunicardi Report

Dean Brunicardi stated that the LCME visit went well. Dr. Brunicardi stated that he wanted to thank everyone for their enormous support for the LCME process. It was an incredible amount of work. He stated that Downstate has seven citations and six monitoring which he felt it was excellent results which is about a 7.5% citation. The final report comes out in June or October. Dr. Brunicardi stated that this was an incredible learning experience.

Last week, the college had another wonderful milestone which was Match day. Dr. Brunicardi stated that it was successful and thanked the chairs, program directors, program coordinators, and faculty. Because of the pandemic, Downstate had no away electives, and all the interviews were done virtual, and it turned out beautifully. As a result, 18 percent of students will stay at Downstate, and others have been placed in top-notch Ivy League schools.

Dr. Brunicardi stated that we went on complete virtual learning platforms because of the pandemic. It turns out that President Riley invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in 2018 and 2019 on distance learning platforms. Dr. Brunicardi felt that if he did not invest, the college would have been in a bad place when everyone had to move to online learning platforms.

Dean Brunicardi also said that the College of Nursing and the School of Health Professions were very helpful in teaching the learning platforms.

In July, COM started to bring students back. We know that it's safe for the students. The third and fourth-year students took care of COVID patients and were wearing the proper PPE. The first and second years are safe with their hybrid curriculum. Also, the college was able to preserve the curriculum. The college does not know if they will stay virtual or open it up in the coming semester. They are nervous because of the third surges with these variants. 80% of the students have been vaccinated, and emails were sent to students who have not been vaccinated. Regarding in-person commencement, President Riley and Dr. Putuman are working on it. President Riley would like to have it at a SUNY campus, so the choices would be Stony Brook or SUNY Maritime. There will be a decision made by April 10 and it will depend on the third surge.

Dean Brunicardi received the faculty evaluations and he stated that he has to find a way for chairs to implement the form.

Dean Brunicardi stated that Dr. Ayman Fanous, chair of Psychiatry, accepted an Arizona University position. He will be leaving around June 30, -July 1.

Dr. Viswanathan will be the interim chair, and there will be a search committee, and hopefully, they will meet by mid-April.

Dean Brunicardi stated that professionalism is one of his three initiatives. He stated that there is no place for yelling, screaming, belittling, and making racist remarks. All of these things are disruptive behavior and unprofessional. The new modern leadership is being as nice as you can be. There are times that a person has to be stern to learners, but there's no place for yelling, screaming and doing unprofessional behavior. For the medical students, it was a critical part of LCME. Dr. Lazar has created a concerns page to allow medical students to give excellent and poor examples of professionalism and report those findings to the new created committee named the Learning Environment Committee, which Dr. Lazar also chairs. Also, President Riley feels that should improve the learning environment.

There will be a new student hall, student health building, a new cafeteria and new library. Dr. Lazar explained the Concern committee. He stated that the idea is to enhance the learning environment by having student mistreatment reported and congratulating those instances in which students recognize high levels of professionalism. There have been seven reported Kudos or compliments and two cases of student mistreatment.

Presiding Officer Report

Dr. Viswanathan congratulated Dr. Yusuff appointment as Downstate's Chief Medical Officer.

Committee Report

Academic Integrity and Professionalism

Dr. Rabinowitz discussed the principle of informed consent in healthcare and breached of academic integrity. He also introduced the members of his committee. The members are Christine Persaud, Patrick Geraghty, Ann Plum and Ivan Hernandez. Based on the bylaws, The committee has two clinicians and two researchers.

Bylaws

Dr. Agarwal stated that they added two committees to the website and updated the Executive Committee's voting criteria.

CAPQ

Dr. Gupta stated that there were two promotions. One was the rank of Professor of Clinical Medicine and the other was promoted to Associate Professor.

Nominations

Dr. Siddiqi stated that an email seeking nominations would be sent to Faculty and Professional staff on April 12. The election should be held in the Spring.

CEPC

Dr. Nowakowski stated that CEPC has been considering how to accommodate the required research experience for medical students. Unfortunately, there is no financial support for a laboratory-based research project. CEPC has created a draft of their proposal and would like to distribute it to the Executive Committee for an open discussion. Dr. Nowakowski also stated that she is stepping down as chair of the CEPC committee.

Admission

Dr. Fisher stated that they had accepted several exceptional applicants. Interviews will be held virtually. The evaluation form that the interviewer uses has been modified to include the journey an applicant has taken through life in getting to where they are now.

Faculty-Staff

In January, Dr. Yusuff stated that the committee organized a seven parts quality improvement lecture series. There were speakers from Cornell Department of Health and discussed on various areas of quality improvement such as lean Qi tools. A couple of weeks ago the committee organized an LGBTQ cultural sensitivity training that was open to the entire campus and the speaker is from Yale. She will be speaking this Friday. Her topic is on taken sexual history, and this is open to medical professionals. Next week, she will have another talk on hormone therapy and transgender patients and how to provide optimal medical care for our transgender patients.

New Business

Dr. Viswanathan stated that he would inform everyone on the date of the semi-annual meeting.