

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine

July 11, 2022

Attendees: In-person at BSB 4-5: R. Viswanathan, C. Persaud, C. Brown, J. Kubie, S. Marquez.
By Zoom: H. Siddiqi, P. Bergold, J. Lazar, J. Meyers, R. Wadgaonkar, R. Orman, M. Nowakowski, S. Rabinowitz, J. Yusuff, C. Roman

Report of Presiding Officer

Dr. Viswanathan called the meeting to order at 5 pm. The minutes from the previous meeting were not approved because Dr. Bergold and others voiced concern about the May minutes not indicating the depth of the discussion about Research Resources and Budget. The committee decided that Dr. Persaud would listen to the recording and revise the minutes, add this information and present it in the next meeting for approval.

The Executive Committee will approve the April 2022 Semi-Annual minutes at the August meeting. In addition, the committee chairs will update, track changes, and send them to Drs. Viswanathan, Persaud, and Ms. Melton-Taylor.

Dr. Viswanathan thanked the committee for attending the June 5 meeting at his house. He requested that the subcommittee chairs email Drs. Viswanathan, Persaud, and Ms. Melton-Taylor on who is rotating off and who is staying. This is required as per the bylaws.

Sub Committee Chairs

Nominations

Dr. Brown stated that the slate was presented to the COM assembly and nominations were asked from the floor. The slate was approved. The election will start today, and ballots will be sent out to members. The election will be open for two weeks.

-

Research, Research and Budget

Dr. Meyers stated that the Institute of Genomic Health issue is still unclear, which faculty are leaving. However, there are job postings out. The research committee appreciates the guidance of Sharon Sealey. SVP office is rolling out new programs for faculty mentoring for junior faculty and post-docs. In addition, there is a new initiative -that focuses on genomics. There is a new member of the senior vice president of the research office, Gaber Marcus Rodriguez, whose focus is on philanthropy. It is a significant interest of a lot of researchers in terms of getting more funding for Downstate. He will be a guest at the next subcommittee meeting.

CEPC

Dr. Nowakowski stated that she looked at the membership of the CEPC committee and the members who are stepping down are:

- 1) Dr. Jacob Miranda
- 2) Dr. Michael Augenbraun
- 3) Dr. Helen Durkin
- 4) Dr. Stanley Friedman

5) Dr. Richard Sadovsky
Members who are staying:

- 1) Dr. Frank Barone
- 2) Dr. Jason Lazar
- 3) Dr. Rauno Joks
- 4) Dr. Steven Ostrow
- 5) Daniel Friedman
- 6) Dr. Ellen Hsu

Dr. Nowakowski will be handing over this committee's leadership and will work with the next sub-committee chair of CEPC.

LCME update

Regarding the LCME accreditation, Dr. Lazar stated that Downstate had done well. Four elements were continued to be monitored. There were eight citations, and most were within the realm of student support Services, chronically low-rated complaints registered on the Graduate questionnaire by students as they are fourth years.

Dr. Putman leads the Office of Academic affairs. This department oversees the College of Medicine and other colleges as well.

Dr. Langley leads the Office of Academic Support which provides support for students who need academic help. Unfortunately, a shortage of staff has hampered Dr. Langley.

The Office of Student Health Services provides primary care for acute conditions for students.

There was a time when students were seen in the same office as employees, and this was something that came in great consternation to them. Next door to Employee Health is now Student Health Service. It has a separate entrance. Students now have an electronic medical record called Medicap.

Farrah Burnett leads the Office of Financial Aid. The office provides seminars, online tools, and calendar scheduling for financial counseling.

Student Counseling Center, which Dr. Maria Deutscher leads, is brand new. It is located in the 440 Lenox Building. They have online calendar scheduling, and the wait time has decreased significantly.

The career advising program has been a chronic contention for the students. They have not been happy with the career advisement. However, working with the focus groups determined that students wanted a person for the first two years, particularly in the foundation years.

Now there are advisors for all years and specialty advisors such as plastics surgery. There is also another tier that includes chairmen speaking with the students.

Center-wide Committee

Dr. Roman stated that the committee had finished elections.

He thanked Alithia Alleyne and Angela Melton-Taylor. He stated that electronic voting worked well. Dr. Norin is the new presiding officer elect. The senators are Dr. Viswanathan and Natalie Ferguson from Nursing. The alternates are Drs. Stanley Fisher and Jasmine Thomas.

The committee is working on the website and hopes it will be done before the next academic cycle starts.

Dr. Roman stated that he had a very productive meeting with President Riley to engage, and he is excited to come to speak with Center-wide.

There is no announcement, but the committee has zeroed in on a date of September 21 for the Center-wide assembly.

Dr. Roman stated that he wants to express gratitude to Dr. Katherine Perkins, who has been working on the bylaws.

CAPQ and the Subcommittee on Faculty Policies

Dr. Viswanathan gave a recap on the CAPQ guidelines. The Subcommittee on Faculty Policies has been deliberating on the CAPQ guidelines, which included the chair of CAPQ. In our November 2021 Executive Committee meeting, the subcommittee proposed abolishing the 2016 CAPQ guidelines and reverting to the previous guidelines. There were ten voting members of the EC in attendance and all of them voted in favor of this resolution. This decision was then presented in the December 2021 Assembly of COM Faculty and Professional Staff, in the Subcommittee on Faculty Policies report. During that time, no one spoke against this decision. The bylaws do not require a membership vote on this issue. The resolution was discussed with Dean Brunicardi, who accepted it but wanted the committee to work on improving the current guidelines. Dr. Viswanathan requested the Subcommittee on Faculty Policies to work on it with counsel from Dr. Clinchy. The minutes of the November 2021 Executive Committee and the December 2021 Assembly discussing this decision are posted on our faculty governance website. In the April 2022 Assembly Dr. Viswanathan brought up the issue again to see if there is any further discussion, given the importance of this topic. Three people spoke in favor of this decision, and no one spoke against it.

Dr. Viswanathan presented the decision in the department chairs' meeting; most of the chairs favored the decision to abolish the 2016 guidelines, and one chair was against it. One important theme in all the above discussions was that the 2016 guidelines require extramural funding for promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical. This may be difficult for many clinical faculty despite their exemplary scholarly activities, given their time constraints, limited institutional support, and the nature of their clinical research. Many topics and kinds of clinical research which are important are not fundable by granting agencies, and the extramural funding requirement devalues this research. It is difficult to recruit and retain scholarly clinical faculty because of it.

Dr. Viswanathan plans to survey the department chairs and, with the EC's approval, survey the COM faculty to get their opinions on the abolition of the 2016 guidelines and the requirement of extramural funding for promotion to Associate professor and professor. Dr. Viswanathan will work on the faculty survey with help from Drs. Yusuff, Foronjy and Kamarajan. This survey will be non-binding but will be helpful to the EC and the Dean in developing CAPQ guidelines in the future. The executive committee approved this survey. Dr. Viswanathan also stated that he spoke to the CAPQ members about the EC decision to abolish the 2016 guidelines, and some CAPQ members would like a revote by the EC. Dr. Viswanathan asked if any EC member would like to make a motion for a revote. Nobody made such a motion.

Dr. Rena Orman said that she liked the idea of faculty input via a survey, this made her more comfortable with the process.

Dr. Peter Bergold stated that this should be done promptly as it affects those coming up to CAPQ for consideration.

Dr. Yusuff stated that there was a unanimous opinion in the subcommittee to abolish the April 2016 CAPQ guidelines. Younger faculty have left due to the 2016 guidelines. In mid-May, there was a meeting with Dr. Clinchy regarding refining the current (pre-2016) guidelines. Dr. Foronjy wanted a higher standard on the research component.

Dr. Yusuff would like to meet with the School of Public Health regarding the Covid saliva screening testing and the wording in the email sent to faculty and staff. There was a faculty member who stated the language was demeaning and offensive.

Academic Integrity and Professionalism

Dr. Rabinowitz stated that a Powerpoint presentation was sent to everyone regarding the five mission points that were addressed. However, there is no formal feedback from the Executive Committee.

The Dean gave feedback to develop preliminary ideas for policies and protocols. Once we approve policies and protocols, they will be presented to the Dean.

By-Laws

The bylaws amendments are on the current ballot. Dr. Marquez said that there was nothing else to report.

New Business

Ms. Melton-Taylor will explore placing some items in the Sharepoint folder for access by executive committee members.

The next EC meeting will be on August 8, Monday, 5 pm – 6:30 pm, in person at BSB 4-5, with Zoom available for those who cannot attend in person.