

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine

May 2, 2022

Attendees: R. Viswanathan, C. Persaud, H. Siddiqi, P. Bergold, J. Kubie, C. Brown, A. Schwartzman, C. Roman, M Nowakowski, R. Foronjy, L. Bailey, R. Wadgaonkar, B. McNeil, S. Rabinowitz, R. Boursiquot, R. Orman, J. Meyers

Guests: Tim Bigdeli, Frank Barone and Oleg Evgrafov

The meeting by Zoom was called to order by Dr. Viswanathan at 5 pm.

April 4, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

Research, Resource and Budget

Dr. Barone talked about research resources losses:

- Two lab technicians.
- Cell Biology chair-Dr. Jim Knowles.
- Some instruments that Dr. Knowles owned.

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Currently, there are 15 projects with external collaborations that are going on with Dr. Evgrafov, who is the collaborative person. They want to be able to support these projects and have a broader collaborative network. Dr. Barone wants to ensure that they will be supported during these transitions and have a more comprehensive collaboration network that can increase faculty, students, funding, training, and education and attract new faculty. Dr. Barone stated that they want to build more research and improve the education of faculty and students. The fear is losing what they have due to a lack of resources.

Dr. Bigdeli stated that they have some shared spaces and dry lab space. They need working freezers and are trying to fill certain positions. Some items may be leaving, and some are staying, but there are no definitive answers.

Dr. Barone would like to work with Dr. Bigdeli to expand the work, provide technical and scientific support to the facility, assist faculty collaboration, and budget an account with any leftover startup or new funds. This could be used to keep things running until everyone can work together to construct a multi-year plan of operation, needs, and payments through funded research, educational initiatives, and technology.

Some members of the committee mentioned that Downstate has a bad record of supporting funded research. The research capital at Downstate is minimal and should be used carefully. There is a need to recruit faculty because many faculty in the Genome Institute have left. There

were discussions on selling the equipment, using it for other means, and bringing in funded researchers.

Dr. Meyers stated that Dr. Bigdeli had conversations with the Dean, and it was discussed that they are interested in creating new positions and getting new faculty in Genomics. Dr. Meyers noted that the campus is still trying to support genomics research. Dr. Viswanathan stated that both the dean and the SVP for research are very interested and supportive in recruiting and retaining research faculty in genomics and other areas, and we are already recruiting faculty. He requested Dr. Meyers to draft a letter to the dean and SVP for Research on behalf of faculty governance expressing above concerns.

Presiding Officer Report

Dr. Viswanathan invited the Executive Committee to a gathering at his house on Sunday June 5, at 4:00pm.

CenterWide Committee

Dr. Roman stated the Centerwide committee is an advocacy organization that comprises of all of the colleges and schools in the campus. Currently the committee has worked with other representatives of the faculty senate to advocate for SUNY Downstate.

The ballots for the Center Wide elections will be emailed to the members of the Centerwide (all five colleges). Dr. Roman thanked members of the Executive Committee for the nominations.

Nominations Committee

Dr. Brown presented the slate that included nominations from the floor of the April 29 Assembly.

Dr. Wadgaonkar withdrew his name from the presiding officer-elect position.

Dr. Viswanathan will ask Angela to request pic/bio from the candidates.

CEPC

Dr. Nowakowski stated that the CEPC will meet on Tuesday May 10th for the last meeting of the academic year. The agenda for the meeting will be following:

Medical student research opportunities: The committee is currently working on it. In addition, five work study students are assisting with collecting and arranging information about potential mentors.

The committee is still waiting for information for an office for the medical students doing research. The students strongly support that idea and would like to have an office dedicated to them with Dr. Barone as the director.

The committee discussed the needs that were identified in previous meetings: Better communication between the Administration and the Faculty regarding medical student research opportunities, such as deadlines for submitting applications for summer research and information distributed among the Faculty about the outcomes of the summer student research projects.

Dr. Nowakowski stated that Dr. Lazar mentioned the difficulties in placing Downstate's students for research projects at the affiliate institutions because they must go through a formal onboarding. This process is hard because they're not considered Downstate students during the summer between their MS 1 MS 2 years. Dr. Lazar has been working on changing that and allowing Downstate's medical students to maintain their student status during the summer months without additional tuition so they can participate in research projects off-site.

Dr. Nowakowski stated that Dr. Friedman brought up the issue of onboarding or transitioning. For example, the MD PhD students who are in their basic research years into the clinical years, and that process needs to be streamlined and made more manageable for students to know what needs to be done.

There will be a presentation from Dr. Gupta who chairs the Electives Committee. The CEPC would like to learn more about the past, present and future of non-clinical electives regarding how they are proposed, approved and evaluated.

There will be a presentation by medical students who are interested in having new pathways approved.

CAPQ

Dr. Foronjy stated that that has been a question about what to do concerning overstay on the tenure clock. He stated that Dr. Clinchy formulated a letter that is in the process of being finalized and will become an official policy since the CAPQ does not know how to handle the process of appropriate action for the overstay and needs clarification. Many candidates have not been evaluated because of this issue.

The other issue is the recent decision by the executive committee to abolish the post-April 2016 promotion criteria, and how it affects people hired after April 4, 2016. The pre-2016 criteria were more lenient than the post-April 4, 2016. There have been questions on what to do with these criteria. The committee wanted clarification of what criteria to use for people who are being evaluated and were hired after April 4, 2016. The committee would like something in writing because the college bylaws are confusing because it states that the CAPQ has the authority to set up a criteria for tenure evaluation and then present that to the Executive Committee for their approval but there is another area in the bylaws stating that "such changes need to be put forward to the faculty and professional staff, personal policies, and the Executive Committee for approval and then be approved by the Dean and President". These languages confuse and some of the evaluations have been halted. Currently, the committee is working on resolving these issues that will help the committee address the backlog of individuals who are up for review. Once the committee receives formal guidance, this should not be an issue in the future. Once the committee gets clarification from Dr. Clinchy, the committee will reach out to the Executive Committee.

Dr. Viswanathan stated he would draft a letter regarding using the former criteria and present it to the Executive Committee. Once approved, the letter will be forwarded to Dr. Foronjy. Dr. Viswanathan volunteered to attend the next CAPQ meeting to provide clarification.

Student Affairs

Dr. Boursiquot stated that the committee discussed plans to have a faculty and student mixer at the last meeting.

The committee realized that there are 800 students from MS 1-MS4 and many Faculty.

Therefore, it was determined that they would have separate groups with MS1-MS2 and MS3-MS4. Furthermore, since there are many students, the committee decided to arrange it where students are matched with faculty interest with those interested in research and those interested in a clinical career.

At the next meeting, the committee will work on a survey. They have invited Dr. Barone to the meeting to assist and brainstorm, but he has not replied.

Academic Integrity and Professionalism

Dr. Rabinowitz stated he does not know how the committee should proceed going forward because it's an advisory committee, and it cannot do any actions. or take anything into our own hands.