

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine

December 5, 2022

Attendees: H. Siddiqi, C. Persaud, R. Gupta, R. Viswanathan, C. Brown, J. Kubie, S. Fisher, S. Rabinowitz, R. Wadgaonkar, R. Barbour, P. Bergold, R. Orman, C. Kamarajan, L. Harris, M. Stewart, N. Penington, L. Weiner

Guest: Dr. Grant, chair of the Conflict-of-Interest Committee invited as part of a series of special guest by Dr. Kamarajan.

Dr. Grant gave an overview of what the conflicts of interest committee reviews. He stated that the financial conflict of interest committee deals with potential conflict of interest that may arise relating to a faculty member's research.

An example is a faculty member starting a business or investing in a startup company that may conflict with their campus responsibilities. Faculty disclose interest that may be potential conflicts through submission of an annual or new conflict of interest form. If a potential conflict of interest is identified, the financial conflict of interest committee drafts a management plan to help eliminate or to manage the apparent conflict.

Dr. Grant received general question from Executive Committee members and those in attendance, some of whom had experience with Dr. Grant's committee. Dr. Grant responded to these questions including revealing specific disagreements that he and his committee faced in connection with Dr. Barbour. Dr. Kamarajan reassured Dr. Grant that the discussion was intended to be broadly informational and not confrontational. Dr. Grant offered the members of the regulatory compliance committee, along with himself, to discuss any concerns.

Sub-Committee Report

Faculty and Professional staff

Dr. Gupta stated that this committee was chaired last year by Dr. Yusuf. Currently, the committee has five members: Jason Gonsky, M.D., Ph.D., Anil Mongia, M.D., Jameela Yusuf, M.D., Lorin Weiner, Ph.D. and Randall Barbour, Ph.D.

Dr. Gupta stated that there was a proposal to restore the pre-2016 guidelines but the post-2016 guidelines cannot be abolished due to legal ramifications.

They propose to bring back pre-2016 guidelines or reduce the research points from 2 to 1. The committee will come up with a proposal, and it be reviewed at future executive committee meeting.

“The Executive Committee previously abolished the post-2016 guidelines”.

By-Laws

Dr. Weiner noted that the committee has been formed and includes: Dr. Barbour, Leonie Harris, Dr. Orman, Dr. Gupta.

He pointed out that the by-laws incorrectly state that tenure can be given to faculty at affiliate institutions. His committee will bring this language in line with the CAPQ guidelines.

Academic Integrity and Professionalism

Dr. Pennington states that they had a zoom meeting and the next will be in person. The committee focused on professional behavior. They added a few items to the prior proposal from the SUNY senate and the committee members.

New Business

Dr. Siddiqi noted that the chairs of the subcommittees should be present at the Executive Committee meetings as per the bylaws. The previous attendance policy is such that if you skip two meetings, we will vote to replace you unless there is a reasonable excuse. The hospital Executive Committee uses 75% attendance. The website includes the dates and times of the meetings.

There was a proposal to replace a member with three consecutive absences and the Executive Committee approved it unanimously.

Dr. Siddiqi has appointed Dr. Anziska to be the chair for the Education Policy and Curriculum Committee (CEPC). Dr. Anziska's appointment was approved by the Executive Committee. Since Dr. Perez left Downstate, Dr. Siddiqi appointed Dr. Agarwal to replace her on the Executive Committee. In addition, Dr. Siddiqi appointed Mr. Victor Ruiz as chair of the Student Activities committee. He is from the student admissions office. Both appointments were approved by the Executive Committee. These individuals will be invited to the next meeting.

Dr. Viswanathan had a concern that sub-committee members have a two-year term. Dr. Siddiqi requested that a letter/email appointing sub-committee member in 2020 for a 2-year term be printed and brought to the next meeting.