

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee

SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine

October 2, 2023

Attendees: H. Siddiqi, M. Stewart, C. Kamarajan, L. Harris, C. Persaud, R. Viswanathan, N. Penington, S. Rabinowitz, C. Galanter

Presiding Officer's Report

Dr. Siddiqi stated that many people will not attend the meeting because of vacation. Regarding CAPQ, Dr. Siqqidi stated that Dr. Barbour said they considered giving someone from Maimonides a promotion. The committee decided to approve a promotion to associate professor.

Dr. Siddiqi explained that, regarding the election, it was postponed because Dr. Viswanathan alerted that the ballot did not contain the names of the faculty members he nominated, and he did not view the ballot before the election took place allowing for these people to be added.

Moreover, we are still required to send the ballot to the Dean so that he can review it. According to Dr. Stewart, Dr. Viswanathan wrote an email to him with three names on it, but the email did not cc Angela Melton-Taylor, so he missed the names when the ballot was created when Dr. Viswanathan sent it. Also, there were many people, since the ballot was drafted in May, who withdrew their names or did not have tenure to serve for CAPQ.

In regards to the ballot that was not submitted to the Dean, Dr. Kubie stated that he has been a member of this committee for two generations, and he has found it to be chronically stressed, stuck in procedural issues, and in need of help with subjective issues. He stated that this committee is independent of the Dean, and the Executive Committee should be asserting its independence. Dr. Pennington stated that the committee is advisory to the Dean but wanted to know if the Dean can veto a person's right to run. Dr. Siddiqi stated the Dean has made nominations, and we added those names as a courtesy. In one instance, the person did not get elected. In the other instance, the person got elected.

Since there wasn't a full assembly meeting, Dr. Pennington suggested that the ballot should be sent by email, and the faculty and staff of the COM should approve the ballot. Also, by emailing the ballot, more nominations can be made. A. Melton-Taylor read the ballot names, which the Executive Committee members approved.

The subcommittee chairs' term ends in August 2023.

Dr. Siddiqi stated that a member of the center-wide committee suggested that the Executive committee change their session from September to July to coordinate. The reason is that the

Faculty Senate starts in July. Dr. Siddiqi stated that he is fine ending his term in June, and Dr. Stewart's term could begin in July. The executive committee decided to discuss this matter at the next meeting.

Dr. Siddiqi stated that the Executive committee voted on creating an alternative route committee, and it has to be approved by the members of the COM. He has asked that wording in the ballot should include the creation of the Alternative Route committee. Dr. Siddiqi asked Dr. Weiner to create wording to include in the ballot and the rationale for the change and create an “approve” or “disapprove” box where they can select. The committee voted to add this to the ballot, and it was unanimously approved.

Last month, Dr. Kamarajan attended a SUNY UFS meeting in Albany as a member of the communications committee. At the conference, he spoke to the President of SUNY UFS, Dr. Keith Landa, regarding the tenure overclock issue. Dr. Kamarajan stated that Dr. Landa was receptive to this issue and he will try to find out the situation in other SUNY campuses to see how this matter is dealt with in general. Dr. Landa wanted to find out the number of overdue faculty in SUNY Downstate, not names, in order to understand the gravity of the situation, especially in a Medical Center. Dr. Kamarajan said that he can invite Dr. Landa to speak with our committee via Zoom, if we need his input. Dr. Siddiqi stated that once the elections are over and the new CAPQ chairperson is selected, we can consider this possibility (to have a meeting with Dr. Landa).

It was discussed at the committee that the overdue tenure issue still needs to be resolved, and members of the committee felt that the committee should invite the Dean to provide clarification/guidance. Dr. Rabinowitz stated that it is not a bad idea to help him understand that the committee has been struggling and has gone through multiple approaches to resolve it.