

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive Committee**

### **SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine**

**November 6, 2023**

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**Attendees: H. Siddiqi, L. Weiner, R. Wadgaonkar, R. Viswanathan, F. Velcek, J. Kubie, C. Kamarajan, S. Agarwal, M. Stewart, C. Kamarajan, N. Penington, S. Rabinowicz, C. Brown**

Guest: Dr. Allen Norin

#### **Presiding Officer's Report**

Dr. Siddiqi stated that he did not know the status of the minutes. However, he hopes all the minutes will catch up by the December meeting. A. Melton-Taylor stated that once the minutes are edited by Dr. Persaud, she sends the minutes to the committee, asking members to review and accept, but has yet to receive a response, so she does not know how to proceed regarding posting them on the website.

Dr. Siddiqi stated that he has yet to see any response. He felt that the minutes should be sent directly to the committee members and not copied from the minutes.

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### **Bylaws**

Dr. Wiener stated that the committee met to approve a second possible amendment to the bylaws regarding creating the alternate route committee. This was a while back. Dr. Siddiqi noted that at the next meeting, he would like an itemized list of those pages or sections where those changes are. Dr. Siddiqi stated that the bylaws committee did a fabulous job writing that amendment to become part of the ballot. However, he said that he has reached a point where elections must proceed. The election can only be held once the bylaws committee finishes changes in the amendment and clarifies the language regarding faculty seeking promotion. Faculty who are seeking promotion should speak to the chair. If the chair declines their request, they can go to the alternate route committee. This needs to be explicitly made clear in the language. The committee can work on revisiting the amendment and the Executive Committee can proceed with the election, which can be approved in a separate vote.

#### **Nominations Elections and Ballots**

Dr. Stewart stated that at a meeting with Jason Lazar, Ross Clinchy, and Betty Smith, it was discussed that the Amendment for the alternate Route Committee had to be clear that a candidate goes to the chair first and that it does not go straight to the alternate route committee and then to

the CAPQ. The old language doesn't say that, and the new language didn't because they all felt it was apparent, but they didn't feel it was obvious and wanted that loophole closed.

As a result of reviewing the ballot, the Dean's office requested that a nominee's name be omitted from the ballot. Dr. Siddiqi stated that he has presented a ballot to the Dean in the past and the Dean's office nominated someone, but was never requested to remove a name, which is unprecedented. According to Dr. Stewart, this is not how the nomination process works. During the nomination process, names can be added, but their names cannot be removed unless the nominee asks to have them removed. Dr. Stewart has stated that the Dean's office interprets the bylaws as implying that the Dean's office will present the ballot jointly. This enables them to request a nominee's removal. In the bylaws, it states that the committee members shall be elected. This is the CAPQ Subcommittee. So CAPQ members shall be selected in the spring of each year by the FPACM from a slate of candidates. The ballot is presented to FPACM jointly by the Dean and the Committee on nominations, elections and ballots. Dr. Stewart and Dr. Siddiqi did not raise the issue of whether the Executive Committee had the same authority. However, it is in the bylaw's language's nature. There was no explanation by the Dean as to why they requested the removal of a nominee from the ballot. It was mentioned that if the committee has a semi-annual meeting and solicits nominations from the floor, names can't be removed because they would be approved by the general assembly. Dr. Norin said he would speak with Dr. Lazor and ask for the rationale for removing this candidate. Also, he will discuss the faculty assembly and the nomination committee presenting the slate of candidates to the Dean. There is nothing in the bylaws that states that the Dean has the authority to remove a nominee after a person has been nominated from the floor. The Dean has no role in the process.

Dr. Norin will also meet with President Riley regarding this matter because he feels it concerns all schools and colleges. According to him, if it can be done with the College of Medicine, other Deans of other schools can also do it. Lastly, he will consult with a lawyer to review the bylaws and see if the Dean's office has the authority to knock someone off. It was mentioned that bylaws should have a clear language so this can't happen again.