

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES

November 10, 2023

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Britigan, Aviva Abosch, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Sam Bierner, Charles Enke, Howie Gendelman, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Dwight Jones, Ron Krueger, Steve Lisco, Matt Rizzo, Deb Romberger, Carl Smith, Mike Wadman, Craig Walker, Ashley Wysong
Jennifer Adams, Sheila Ellis, Karen Gould, Zahid Iqbal, Beau Konigsberg, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Lynn Mack, Travis McCumber, Kody Moffatt, Olabisi Sheppard

Ad Hoc: Kelly Caverzagie, Shirley Delair, Wendy Grant, Mike McGlade, Geoffrey Talmon

Guest: Ken Bayles

1. Welcome (Dr. Britigan)
Dr. Britigan welcomed all to the November meeting
2. Minutes and Announcements (Dr. Britigan)
Both August and September minutes were unanimously approved
3. CME Committee Charter (Dr. Caverzagie)
Charter for the Continuing Medical Education Committee needs to change from 12 members to 10. All of the charters also need to change from Dean appointed Chair and Vice Chair of Committees – bylaws state committee members elect Chair and Vice Chair. Corresponding Assoc Dean of Committee or Dean himself will recommend chair and vice chair and the committee will then elect.

This is the only operational change in the charter and needs to be approved by the faculty council.

This was approved by the CME committee last month.

Several questions on this issue were raised by council members. Wording needs to change so the committee members can bring more names forward to be selected for chair and vice chair of committees.

Vote was deferred and the charter will be brought back to a future meeting for consideration.

4. GME Committee Charter – Dr. Caverzagie
GME Charter is different – chair is Assoc Dean for GME.
This was approved by Faculty Council in July but not reflected in minutes.
Members voted unanimously to reapprove.
5. Finance Committee Charter – Dr. Caverzagie
Committee met and approved Charter - the chair and membership is appointed by the Dean, so the bylaws are different for this committee than they are for the CME committee.

Finance committee charter was unanimously approved by the Faculty Council.

Comment was made to have terms and how they are rotated added to the charter. Terms are outlined in the bylaws – terms are 3 years and 3 years and then need to take a year off.

6. Faculty Council Charter – Dr. Caverzagie
Faculty Council charter outline was sent out in draft form.
A motion was moved and seconded, and the charter was unanimously approved by the Faculty Council.
7. Faculty Council - draft issue/topic form for completion by General Faculty – Dr. Kelly Caverzagie
Presently working to make sure general faculty have a greater awareness of the role and membership of the Faculty Council. Drs. Caverzagie and Ellis are working on a request form that will be a several question document and be sent around for feedback. Form will include name, dept and what question(s) you might have for the Faculty Council.
8. Strategic Plan Review – Dr. Caverzagie
At the Faculty Town Hall on December 6th we will outline portions of the Strategic Plan. There are 9 different, very large categories: education, research, DEI, community outreach, etc. We will share how to access educational learner focus. Within that there are nine separate strategies and within those 9 strategies there are 13-14 different initiatives. We want to make sure the faculty and especially the Faculty Council are aware of those. Anyone can access UNePlan at any time.
9. Research Space
Dr. Britigan reminded the council about the discussion regarding the challenges pertaining to research space at a Faculty Council meeting several months ago. At that meeting it was decided to have Dr. Ken Bayles come to a future meeting and discuss research space needs on the campus and entertain any questions or comments from the council.

Dr. Bayles noted that the VCR office oversees the space allocations specific to some areas such as the DRC buildings, Wittson and Lied. He indicated the need to do a better job of coordinating space with other groups on campus. Cancer Center and Pharmacology have historically had control over their space but have faculty in spaces in other areas of campus also. Over the last ten years or so we have had the luxury of having excess space but unfortunately that luxury is not with us anymore. We have a space policy, space metrics that the VCR office uses. Space allocation is guided by funding expenditures per square foot using a 3-year rolling average. His office has data on pretty much every space on campus, in the areas mentioned, that show who is just about right in terms of their space allocation, who maybe needs more space or maybe has too much space. He hears all the time that there is a lot of space out there that is not efficiently used. As we are starting to bust at the seams it behooves us to start enforcing the space metrics. He wants to do this on a case-by-case basis. His plan is to work with department chairs who are recruiting and see how we can make some changes. He doesn't want to have control over all the space and make decisions in a bubble. He needs input from all the chairs who know their faculty the best. He thinks this will alleviate our space issues temporarily until the next building opens. The grand opening of the CORE building will help. UNMC will hopefully have one floor of that building. Putting collaborators together as best we can and working with the chairs will be a Band-Aid for now.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Dr. Bayles agreed with the importance of distinguishing between the need for wet lab space, studies involving animals that may take place in a comparative, and dry lab space for human subjects, clinical trials when allocating space. He was considering subtracting the total animal cost against the space equation to make a better estimate of the actual need for personnel in lab space. However, there are problems with that. He has decided to leave the space equation alone and just enforce it as it is in a conversation with the chairs. There are different needs for dry lab and clinical research and he indicated the need to take that into consideration. We can build that into our formula but there are issues when you try to build into a formula and apply it broadly. The alternative is to have a conversation with dept chairs and ask what really are the needs of their faculty?

The importance of partnering with the hospital and along with AI and machine learning was raised. In response Dr. Bayles mentioned Epley Science Hall – specifically 5th floor animal space. Would like to make that building more useful for dry lab work, clinical research, etc. Dr. Bayles indicated that he would also be discussing optimal use of FPBCC research space with the new cancer center director, Dr. Sweasy.

In response to a question regarding the VA partnership on research space, Dr. Bayles indicated that discussions are occurring and there may be interest of the VA space in the new CORE building.

Additional discussions followed that involved the importance of involving the chairs in decision making regarding space as each department and individual faculty member needs may not be reflected by simple metrics. Dr. Bayles agreed. It was noted that it is always preferable for department chairs to bring potential solutions to the space committee rather than just asking the space committee to solve.

Dr. Britigan commented that the challenge for some departments is that they are not in UNMC office space but in buildings that are owned and operated by Nebraska Medicine. To some extent there may need to be conversations about UNMC leasing lab space as part of the research space allocation for a clinical department.

Dr. Britigan thanked Dr. Bayles for his time. He will be invited back in 6 months or so.

10. Updates from Associate Deans

Admissions and Student Affairs - Dr. Grant

She indicated things are moving forward as planned – no major issues.

Undergraduate Curriculum - Dr. Talmon

We received our notification from the LCME regarding our status report and we were declared compliant in all 12 standards. That is good news.

There are 93 elements that make up the 12 standards and we had only 3 that weren't considered fully satisfactory. Those were satisfactory with monitoring. They needed ongoing data to continue for us to demonstrate the changes we made.

Dr. Britigan offered congratulations and thanks to Dr. Talmon and his team for shepherding this through.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - Dr. Delair

She will use some of the feedback regarding the charters since they will be working on their DEI charter to make sure some of the elements discussed today are clear. Committee is having its 3rd meeting next week.

COM Business Affairs - Mike McGlade

Reminder- one week left for NUFlex signup.

11. Adjourn at 8:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan
Dean