

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

September 08, 2023

7:30 a.m.

Members Present: Brad Britigan, Vimla Band, Surinder Batra, Sam Bierner, Charles Enke, Howie Gendelman, Rebekah Gundry, Jeff Harrison, Dwight Jones, Steve Lisco, Dave Mercer, Deb Romberger, Mike Wadman, Craig Walker  
Jennifer Adams, Sheila Ellis, Zahid Iqbal, Beau Konigsberg, Trek Langenhan, Kim Latacha, Lynn Mack, Travis McCumber, Kody Moffatt, Nidhish Tiwari

Ad Hoc: Chandra Are, Kelly Caverzagie, Wendy Grant, Geoffrey Talmon

Minutes:

1. Welcome (Dr. Britigan)
2. Minutes and Announcements ((Bradley Britigan, MD)
  - a) August minutes will be reviewed at the next Faculty Council Meeting
  - b) Dr. Britigan advised the Council that the draft revisions of the Promotion and Tenure Committee process would be sent out after last month's faculty council meeting; however, there were additional modifications made. Look for the revised document for your review and feedback in the next week or two.
  - c) Kearney groundbreaking ceremony took place on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Close to 300 people attended including a number of associate deans and some of the department chairs. Thanks for making that trip. A dinner was held that evening with several of our alumni who practice in the Kearney area to give them a more detailed update on the plans for COM. Good feedback from that discussion about needs of the community, what it can provide, what we may need to look for beyond Kearney and some preliminary discussions on leadership and/or faculty opportunities on that campus.
  - d) Dr Grant added that there is a lot of enthusiasm but not necessarily congealed. Still many questions. There are a number of myths and rumors. From an admissions standpoint, it's not automatic that if you're a KHOP student that you will go to Kearney. We need to assure whatever is delivered here will be delivered there and they will have the same access to the education that is provided here.
  - e) Dr Britigan added that the presence of Nebraska Medicine's expansion of the cancer center in Kearney has created some ripples. Difficulty in some minds separating UNMC COM from NM clinical activities. Hopefully, this will alleviate in time.
  - f) Dr Romberger reminded that we need to start soliciting names for ELAM (Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine). The process will be starting soon, and the COM can nominate two people. Anyone (mid-career or later) that is interested will need to submit a two-page letter stating why they would like to be considered. Go to the ELAM website ([Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine - Drexel University College of Medicine](#)) for more information. For questions, feel free to contact Dr Romberger.

3. Admissions and Student Affairs (Wendy Grant, MD)  
Early decisions for admissions interviews are done. Decisions out October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 53 EDP applicants. Applications volume up about 19% over last year. Also, an uptick in Nebraska applicants up 20% from last year. A reminder to faculty to get your letters in for the M4s.

4. Undergraduate Curriculum (Geoff Talmon, MD)  
LCME related items: We turned our follow-up report into the LCME last month. Should be hearing back from them following the LCME Board Meeting later this fall. We addressed the majority of issues they brought forward.

All faculty and house staff received an e-mail from Dr Britigan re: a compliance module that we need to do in order to satisfy multiple LCME requirements. Please encourage your peers to take a few minutes to complete. If any issues accessing the course, please contact Dr Talmon.

We are Beginning to dig into Kearney planning at a programmatic level now that the building is underway.

The principles we're working under are comparability, flexibility, and creating a value-added experience. We will be reiterating that regardless of the site of instruction, it will be one class of medical students – not Omaha students and Kearney students. The approach we're taking is everything will be comparable – not identical, but comparable. Providing flexibility for students on both campuses to move in and out of experiences on either campus is guiding the planning process. Finally, we are exploring options creating new cocurricular programs that would entice a potential applicant or student to pursue training at sites in greater Nebraska.

5. Educational Strategy and Learning Environment (Kelly Caverzagie, MD)  
During Orientation Week there was a research symposium at which the upper-level students displayed their research for the incoming medical students. It was very successful, and we will build on that in the future.

Faculty Council will establish a forum for the general faculty members in order to establish a communication mechanism so that the general faculty members can connect with each other. And also develop communication mechanisms for our faculty at large so they know who the representatives are and how to contact them. Will be working on that in the next week or two.

COVID policies will be updated - mask policy will change from must wear to may wear and no more requirement for students to get the vaccine.

6. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Shirley Delair, MD)  
Dr Delair unavailable so updates were made by Dr Britigan  
The first meeting of the COM DEI committee will take place September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Continuing to plan for community engagement day and for outreach to partner high schools which will take place the first two weeks of October.

No changes on our campus from a DEI standpoint after the SCOTUS decision.

7. GME (Chanda Are, MBBS)  
No update

8. Research (Howard Fox, MD, PhD)  
Dr Fox unavailable – update by Dr Britigan  
As we are looking at additional recruitments of research faculty, both wet-bench research and dry-lab types of activities, we are starting to see some challenges of research space for them. There obviously is limited lab space available, particularly in the DRCs. The metric policy may need to be enforced to a greater extent than before. More to come on that.

One other issue was brought up by Dr Lisco. The fact that some investigators have a ton of personnel and not enough desk space. Hopefully, the space committee will take that into consideration also. Dr Britigan will invite Dr Ken Bayles to a future Faculty Council Meeting to discuss some of these issues.

Dr Gundry's department would like to see a universal policy across campus for students and post docs regarding quiet space and workspace.

9. Clinical Affairs/Nebraska Medicine (Steve Lisco, MD)

Work continues on the integration of the advanced practice providers into the clinical home departments. About half of the departments are well situated while the other half has issues that need to be addressed.

Five members were added to an important Nebraska Medicine committee – The Scope of Practice Committee. Dr Harrison is our primary representative on the committee. The committee is focused in making sure that non-physicians are working top of license but yet within compliance regulations and best practices of both the ambulatory and inpatient areas. The five members of the committee are: Nicole Shonka, Marcus Snow, Teresa Berg, Sam Pate and Wes Zeger. The committee will meet monthly.

10. Pediatric Affairs/CSP/Children's Hospital (Kari Simonsen, MD)

No update

11. COM Business Affairs (Mike McGlade)

Mike McGlade unavailable – update by Dr Britigan

Still waiting for clarification and direction from central administration regarding budget cuts and hiring freeze. No new updates yet.

12. Dr Britigan mentioned that today starts Alumni Weekend. There will be several hundred alumni around campus for a luncheon, tours and a reception. You are all invited to stop by the reception for the COM in MSC 3001 starting at 3:00 and going until 4:30.

13. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,



Bradley Britigan  
Dean