

**Dean's Faculty Advisory Council
University of Tennessee, College of Medicine**

September 9 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Phyllis Richey, at 12:00 PM on September 9, 2024, in person and on the Zoom online platform.

Attendance

The following members were present:

Mark Bugnitz, MD, Charlie Busby, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, Jay Fowke, PhD, MPH, MS, Ian Gray, MD, Bruce L. Keisling, PhD, FAAIDD, Patrick Koo, MD, Khyati Kothari, MD, Chris Ledbetter, MD, F. Matthew Mihelic, MD, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Deidra Mountain, PhD, Katherine Nearing, MD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Phyllis Richey, PhD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD, Christopher Parker-Rajewski, MB, BCH, BAO, Natalie Dunkap, DO, Nir Shimony, MD, Natalie Kerr, MD, Rajeshwary Ghosh, PhD, Tracy McClinton, DNP, AGACNP-BC, APRN, HGET-C, EBP-C, Chris Trabue

The following guest(s) was (were) present:

G. Nicholas Verne, MD, Alicia Diaz-Thomas, MD, Michael Ebbs, MBA/CPA, MPH (Assoc VC for Finance & Interim Sr. Assoc. Dean for Finance and Administration)

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. Minutes had previously been distributed by electronic means.

Business

Pres. Richey began by introducing new DFAC members:

Natalie Dunkap, DO (Medicine), Nir Shimony, MD (Neurosurgery), Natalie Kerr, MD, MBA (Ophthalmology), Bobby Yawn, MD, MBA, FACS (Otolaryngology), Rajeshwary Ghosh (Physiology), PhD, Christopher Parker-Rajewski, MB, BCH, BAO (Anesthesia)

Dr. Diaz-Thomas then described the qualifications needed, for new members of the CAPT committee (Committee on Appointment, Promotion and Tenure). At this time a new clinical member is needed, with an MD or DO degree, tenured, and ideally at the rank of full Professor, for the term from January 2025 through June 2027. The new CAPT member needs to be a member of DFAC.

Dean Verne then provided updates, first by introducing Michael Ebbs, MBA/CPA, MPH, who is both Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance and, for the time being, also Interim Sr. Assoc. Dean for Finance and Administration (temporarily replacing Teresa Hartnett, now retired). Updating various searches, he informed DFAC that the Executive Dean search is now underway and a new Executive Dean should be named by July 1, 2025..

Dr. Diaz-Thomas stated that searches are underway for, among others: chair, Department of Pathology; Asst Dean of Clinical Training; chair, Medical Education (Nashville) search is now closed; director, Office of Faculty Affairs; chair, Department of Pediatrics (future search, to be undertaken in conjunction with LeBonheur). Various faculty searches are also underway. After an Executive Dean is chosen, positions will be filled for associate deans of research, and communications in the CoM.

Dr. Verne indicated that, regarding a new COM building, current efforts focus on determining the details of what spaces will be included. The concept behind this building would be a focus on learners, with common places for students, lecture halls, spaces for interdisciplinary meetings with members of other colleges, and the like. Additional discussions will concern other buildings, such as updated uses for 910, 920 and 930 Madison, Coleman, etc. An additional need, whether in the new building or elsewhere, will be for some sort of clinical research center.

Pres. Richey outlined several goals and initiatives for DFAC in 2024-2025 including the following:

- Ramp up on DFAC branding including having its own email address and improving its website presence to better serve as an information resource for faculty.
- DFAC will refresh its committee membership for the academic year in an effort to engage more members. To facilitate this, a committee questionnaire/signup form will be sent to all members in the coming weeks.
- DFAC will explore ways to increase involvement of, and service to, members in Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga. Regional members present suggested interest in increasing research collaboration across regions and campuses.
- During the year DFAC will review and make updates, where applicable, to the COM Faculty Bylaws.

Discussion then turned to COM 120 policy. Dr. Terry Cooper, chair of the Policy Committee, noted that the policy exists because of fairly specific LCME requirements. He went through various questions posed by DFAC and Policy Committee members, and responses as provided by Dr. Mike Whitt. One question concerned whether DFAC membership should have an absolute cap of numbers (here, with the draft policy updates suggesting 40) versus potentially expanding or contracting depending on how many faculty are at the regional sites. A related question concerns how to apportion DFAC representatives. In the Memphis campus, each department has one representative regardless of its size, whereas regional campuses' representation at present is proportionate to their numbers, rather than being based on particular department membership. To explore these questions further, the first step will be to find the correct numbers: how many FTEs do we have; how many full-time faculty, how many part-time faculty, by department and by campus. Various other changes were described and endorsed without further change.

Pres. Richey informed the group that DFAC now has its own email address, which is comdfac@uthsc.edu.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be held on October 7, 2024, at 12:00n CT / 1pm ET by Zoom and in person in room 502, 910 Madison building.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD
Secretary