

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

**April 3, 2023**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Mace Coday, at 12:06 PM on April 3, 2023, in person and on the Zoom online platform.

### **Attendance**

The following members were present:

Mark Bugnitz, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Ian Gray, MD, Chris Ledbetter, MD, Francesca-Fang Liao, PhD, Patrick McConville, MD, James McLoughlin, MD, F. Matthew Mihelic, MD, Erica Mitchell, MD, MEd SE, FACS, DFSVS, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Reese Scroggs, PhD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shephard, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD, Nikki Zite, MD, Jillian McCarthy, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

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

Myra Sullivan, Alicia Diaz-Thomas, MD, Scott Strome, MD

### **Approval of minutes**

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

### **Business**

Pres. Coday began by introducing Dr. Francesca-Fang Liao, who replaces Dr. Suleiman Bahouth, a faculty and DFAC member who is recently deceased. DFAC members who knew him remembered him fondly for the group.

Pres. Coday then invited Dean Strome to offer some remarks. He congratulated Dr. Pfeffer on his recent NIH grant award. He highlighted the upcoming State-of-the-College address, indicating that he would like to have the meeting in person this year, for all who are able. A medical student group, the "Hippocratic Notes," will begin the gathering. Tentatively the date will be May 3.

The meeting then turned to several updates. The CAPT committee still needs new members, particularly clinicians. Additionally, we need nominations for DFAC president-elect and for several departments that do not have DFAC members.

Attention then turned to the proposed changes in the tenure/promotion timeclock. Several suggestions have come in, including to begin the changes for 2024 rather than the current year, and an additional proviso that late-breaking updates be permitted. A major purpose of the proposed changes is to permit additional time for submitted dossiers to be checked, updated, spruced up and put into the best shape before submission to CAPT. DFAC commentary noted that preparing a tenure or major promotion

dossier is typically near a full-year activity anyway, hence a change of dates should not be particularly problematic. A proposal to accept the new timeclock, with the two provisos as noted above (implement in 2024 and permit late-breaking updates), was passed unanimously.

Dr. Pfeffer then described the mentoring program to enhance clinical translational research, as proposed back in February 2020. The proposal was developed pre-pandemic, hence did not receive the intended attention once Covid-19 appeared. It outlines ways in which more senior faculty would be matched as mentors to a select group of 5 trainees whose research would be promoted via mentoring and other assistance. Faculty time for mentoring would need financial compensation via release from some appropriate portion of, e.g. RVU requirements. Trainees would be regularly evaluated for progress, with appropriate response as needed. In the near future Dr. Diaz-Thomas will bring the idea to a regular meeting of Department Chairs for their input.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held the Annual CoM Meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD  
Secretary