

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

April 5, 2021

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. Lawrence Pfeffer, at 12:01 pm on April 5, 2021, 2021, on the Zoom online platform due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **Attendance**

The following members were present:

Penny A. Asbell, MD, Iverson Bell, MD, Mark Bugnitz, MD, Mace Coday, PhD, Julio F. Cordero-Morales, PhD, Terry Cooper, PhD, Denis DiAngelo, PhD, KU Malik, PhD, DSc, Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD, Katherine Nearing, MD, Lawrence Pfeffer, PhD, Crystal Pourciau, MD, Ryan Rahman, MD, Burt Sharp, MD, Claudette Shepherd, MD, Laura Sprabery, MD, Neena Thomas-Gosain, MD, Jerome Thompson, MD, MBA, Joe Willmitch, MPAS, PA-C, Thad Wilson, PhD

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

Scott Strome, MD, Andrew Griffith, MD, JD, Richard Smith, PhD, Polly Hofmann, PhD

### **Approval of minutes**

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

### **Business**

Dean Strome updated the DFAC on recent developments regarding clinical partners. Conversations continue with Methodist Hospital on our changing relationship, and Dr. Strome anticipates we will end up in a better place in the end. The process has caused concern, but the College will do everything in its power to protect its faculty and trainees.

Dr. Strome also discussed the status of medical education, stating that our medical students are doing well. With the upcoming LCME process, the CoM has addressed many or most of students' concerns. Dr. Strome expressed great appreciation for faculty participation in the LCME re-accreditation efforts, noting that the site visit is coming fairly soon. The match went well, despite Covid-19, with students being placed across the country even as many chose to remain with UTHSC. On the Step 1 exam, 100% of the M2 students who took the exam have

passed – which may be the first time in UT history. We have now reduced tuition for out-state students for the second time, and it is now about 150% of in-state students' tuition. It is anticipated that this will increase the breadth of applications and diversity across the admissions process.

The search and recruitment of new chairs in Ob-Gyn and Pathology are proceeding well. Additional searches for chairs in Neurosurgery, ER and radiation oncology will likely be internal.

Regarding community outreach, the Mayor of Memphis has indicated his interest to collaborate with the COM. The first garden/farm is now in soil-testing phases, while a second will focus on bees and honey.

In research, work continues on strategic plans for both the campus and the College. Increased collaboration with St. Jude is one important focus, as is enhancing efforts in entrepreneurship based on faculty research.

Pres. Pfeffer asked Dean Strome whether there were specific issues of concern for the LCME process. Several issues that will be addressed include: diversity/inclusion, on-campus dining, and student health including mental health. Dr. Mike Whitt has assembled a video entitled "You Asked, We Did It," showing how we are addressing students' concerns. This has been shared with students throughout the CoM.

Dr. Andrew Griffith updated DFAC on the UTHSC strategic plan for research. The campus planning is proceeding well. For the CoM process, Dr. Griffith has consulted broadly with research chairs and others, and will continue in that direction.

Dr. Pfeffer then asked Dr. Shepherd for updates on the Diversity/Inclusion policy. The policy has been approved at all levels and is ready for approval by the Vice-Chancellor, after which it will be voted on at the annual Faculty Meeting.

Dr. Cooper then updated the DFAC on a newer draft policy on "Responsibilities for Teaching, Supervision, and Evaluation of Trainees" (proposed COM Bylaw). Discussion concerned the differences between graduate students' research versus GME trainees' and undergraduate medical students' work. After discussion, the draft wording was accepted unanimously.

Finally, given that May will be the last DFAC meeting, Dr. Pfeffer request that an request be made for nominees to run for President-Elect in the upcoming year.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the committee will be held on May 3, 2021, at 12:00 Noon by Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

E. Haavi Morreim, JD, PhD  
Secretary