

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY COUNCIL

**Speaker's Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2009
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

BCRI 139 (Baxter Conference Room @ Batchelor Children's Research Institute)

Members Present:	Others Present:
Fazal Ahmad, Ph.D. Deshratn Asthana, Ph.D. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, M.D. Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D. Diana Lopez, PhD. Tomas Salerno, M.D. Carl Schulman, M.D. Ivonne Schulman, M.D. Sean Scully, M.D.	William Awad, M.D. Richard Lee, M.D. Richard Thurer, M.D. Stephanie Wragg, Ph.D.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Vice Speaker, Dr. Carl Schulman.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Dean's Meeting of January 27, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

1. Establishment of the Educator Track – Drs. Richard Thurer, Stephanie Wragg & Diana Lopez

A handout was provided.

Dr. Richard Thurer began by introducing Dr. Stephanie Wragg, a member of the Department of Medicine located at the FAU Regional Medical Campus. The Clinical Educator Track had previously been established for physicians and healthcare practitioners with terminal degrees who provide clinical service. However, we have faculty members who have Ph.D. degrees and their primary roles are in education including teaching and academic activities related to this mission. While the current academic tracks include teaching responsibilities, none of them has as their primary focus education. Under the promotion and tenure guidelines for the current academic tracks, it is difficult to recognize excellence in educational activities. Dr. Diana Lopez pointed out that, although the Educator track had been approved for the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy, it could be expanded so that other departments could utilize this track as well. From the Faculty Senate's point of view, this proposal can be re-introduced to the Faculty Senate for any adjustments so that it can be expanded to accommodate faculty in other departments.

Concerns of Council members were addressed by Drs. Thurer, Lopez and Wragg. The Faculty Council strongly urged that this track should be made available on a school-wide basis. This new Educator Track is envisioned as a mechanism to support and strengthen our educational mission. There were some concerns regarding the title of the document. The proposal will be edited and sent electronically to Council members to review and presented to the Dean for discussion at the next Dean's Meeting scheduled for February 24, 2009. If the Dean approves, the proposal will be presented to the Faculty Senate in March.

2. Faculty Senate Report – Drs. William Awad, Mary Ann Fletcher & Richard Lee

Dr. William Awad began with a discussion of three issues. The first was concern about the financial situation of the University. President Donna Shalala has addressed the faculty and staff in a letter sent

electronically that communicated many details of the current status and some preliminary thoughts on how to address the challenges. The second issue is enrollment. At this time, application numbers are high but it is not clear on the number of students who will matriculate due to the world's economic crisis. Although this is a growing concern and some faculty feel that we should increase the enrollment by 200 students to cover costs, President Shalala is not considering this at the present time in order to maintain the high quality of our student body. The third issue was whether we would obtain additional grants from NIH and more support from the state.

President Shalala acknowledged that the Miller School of Medicine is doing well but is short of the revenue expectations projected.

Council members continued to discuss the financial standing of the Medical School. There were concerns regarding the salaries of new faculty hires versus the salaries of the current faculty. Also, Council members continued with a discussion relating to promotion and tenure.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.