

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY COUNCIL

Dean's Meeting

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

1301 SCCC (Large Conference Room @ Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center)

Members Present:	Others Present:
Fazal Ahmad, Ph.D. Norman Altman, V.M.D. Deshratn Asthana, Ph.D. Sanjiv Bhatia, M.D. Sanjoy Bhattacharya, M.D. Coralie Carraway, Ph.D. Mary Ann Fletcher, Ph.D. Pascal Goldschmidt, M.D. Tomas Salerno, M.D.	William Awad, M.D. Richard Bookman, Ph.D. Richard Lee, M.D. Jenifer McCafferty-Cepero, Ph.D. Richard Thurer, M.D.

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the Speaker, Dr. Norman Altman.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Speaker's Meeting of February 10, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

Dr. Altman began with reminding the Council that there was a Faculty Senate General Welfare Committee (GWC) meeting held last week. Dr. Mary Ann Fletcher was present at the meeting and was called upon to summarize the discussions. There was a concern regarding the cash flow of the various schools throughout the university. At this time, the University of Miami is not in deficit. The monies in reserve and endowments have remained untouched thus far; however, there is a cash flow dilemma particularly at the Miller School of Medicine.

Dr. Richard Bookman commented that 30 years ago, the university had almost no working capital. The university has built up its working capital and a year ago it was approximately \$450 million. Of the \$450 million, about \$225 million was invested in what is known as the "growth pool" and was treated as if it were an endowment. The current value of those funds is approximately \$175 million. The remaining \$225 million of the original \$450 million was used for operations of the entire university. By the end of November of 2008, approximately \$28 million of those funds remained. November is known as a "seasonal low" for the university. During the months of December and January, more tuition payments are received and the cash flow begins to improve.

Currently, the university is in a situation where cash outlays are greater than anticipated and the ability to replenish these funds has not materialized as expected. The university has taken steps to secure its financial well-being.

1. Dean's Report – Dean Pascal Goldschmidt

The Dean began by reporting that the hospitals are doing very well and have contributed about \$21 million to the bottomline. There was a significant investment in renovations of the University of Miami Hospital. During the month of January, there was about a \$200K profit. The entire medical school and hospitals had a positive net balance of approximately \$7 million at the end of January.

Due to the condition of the economy, it will be too risky to invest in growth at this time. The university will take a more conservative approach. The university has effectively controlled expenses and revenues have slowly increased.

So far this year, \$52 million has been invested by the university in the medical school. A fiscal year end deficit of approximately \$40 million had been anticipated, with the expectation that the medical school's revenue to expense status during the final quarter of the year would be neutral or slight positive. For fiscal year 2009, the fund-raising goal for the medical school was approximately \$90 million in restricted and unrestricted gifts. As a result of the economic down-turn, it is clear that this goal will not be reached for the Miller School of Medicine. At present, gifts are expected to be in the \$60-65 million range, reducing philanthropic dollars that had been planned to fund current operating expenses. The medical practice plan income is expected to be between \$20-30 million short of the plan.

If the medical school can continue to control expenses while simultaneously increasing revenue, the numerous financial resources available to the university for Miller School careful growth may be available, depending upon the economic environment.

The Miller School of Medicine is currently being reviewed by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education. The LCME group is "very impressed" with the Miller School of Medicine. This group will spend time at the Miami campus as well as at the Regional Campus located at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. On Thursday, February 26th, President Shalala and Dean Goldschmidt will meet for an exit interview with the LCME visiting team at which general feedback will be provided. Dean Goldschmidt was very pleased with the students and faculty for their excellent preparation in anticipation of this accreditation visit.

Dean Goldschmidt reported that he and Dr. Richard Bookman had visited the new Biomedical Research Building (BRB). It is expected that occupancy of this building will begin at the end of March.

We are actively working to receive financial assistance from the Economic Stimulus Package. Funds from NIH and the Economic Stimulus Package will initiate job creation and job security. The creation of the Human Genomics Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine has demonstrated to state government that we are an institution that has been successful in quickly creating jobs that are effective. This provides us with a more competitive advantage in economic development.

Council members expressed concern regarding both potential salary reductions as well as operational expense limitations for the medical school. Dean Goldschmidt reassured the Council that there was no plan to decrease salaries. The medical school will review its programs to assess which of them are contributing to the mission of the medical campus. Dean Goldschmidt feels confident that the departments will be able to align their budgets for fiscal year 2010 to be consistent with the performance expected in the last quarter of the current year, and that balanced budgets can be presented. Unit priorities will need to be established and expenditure decisions made accordingly.

Dr. Lawrence Gardner phoned to provide an update from the visit the LCME to the FAU Regional Campus. He reported that the visit appeared to go very well, and that the LCME group was very pleased with the students, faculty and the program. This was wonderful news to the Dean and the Medical School Faculty Council.

2. Establishment of the Educator Track – Dr. Richard Thurer

Dr. Altman reminded the Council and Dean that at the last Speaker's Meeting, the Council had unanimously agreed that the Educator Track should be broadened to encompass all the departments at the Miller School of Medicine. He asked Dr. Richard Thurer to give an update.

Dr. Thurer advised that there are certain faculty members at the institution who have no clear pathway for advancement. The Educator Track may be attractive both Ph.D.s and to physicians whose major academic interest is in teaching and teaching administration. Currently, there is an approved Educator Track in the Department of Cell Biology and Anatomy. The new proposal to expand the track to the Department of Medical has applications for all departments at the Miller School. The proposal was rewritten to reflect that school-wide application.

When the Educator Track was expanded to include other schools and colleges three to four years ago, the Faculty Senate determined that the number of faculty members in the Educator Track should be limited in order that tenured and tenure-track faculty would continue to represent the majority of a unit's faculty. The proposal to expand the track to all departments of the Miller School that was presented two weeks ago included a cap of 10% of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Dr. Thurer feels that the new proposal has merit and recommends that it be passed and be presented to the Faculty Senate for consideration.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.