

MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY COUNCIL

**Speaker's Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

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

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. Marta Galarza, M.D. Diana Lopez, PhD. Tomas Salerno, M.D. Sean Scully, M.D.	Kathy Andersen, M.P.A. Barth A. Green, M.D. William Awad, M.D. Awtar Ganju-Krishan, Ph.D. Thomas Sick, Ph.D. Richard Thurer, M.D.

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Speaker, Dr. Norman Altman.

A motion was made to approve minutes of the Dean's Meeting of August 26, 2008. The motion was unanimously approved.

Creation of the Global Institute for Community Health & Development

Ms. Kathy Andersen has been working with Dr. Barth Green to establish the Global Institute for Community Health and Development for the past year. Ms. Andersen recognized the assistance of Dr. Jennifer McCafferty-Cepero in this process. The new institute is viewed as a mechanism to enhance and grow already established programs of the Miller School of Medicine that provide training and medical care in poor countries, particularly in Haiti. Expansion of successful programs to other countries in the western hemisphere is anticipated. Their mission includes: inter-disciplinary community-driven health and development solutions; generation of new knowledge and scientific innovation; forging academic interchange in areas of global health; and creation of collaborations with community partners. Continued exposure of students to medical issues in other countries and enabling physicians to assist with workforce training and development within those countries is anticipated.

Dr. Green explained that the Global Institute for Community Health and Development will be based in the Miller School of Medicine and will actively encourage participation from all areas of the University of Miami. Over the past 20 years, the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine has developed a continuing relationship with Haiti in medical care and training. The institute is envisioned to eventually become an umbrella organization for many of our international programs, including collaboration with the Harrington Program and the Jay Weiss Center. These activities are synergistic and can work together on similar fundraising and

program goals while becoming more effective. Some funding has been received by the Global Institute and additional grant requests have been submitted.

Dr. Green then addressed questions and concerns of the Council. He explained that in order for this initiative to be most effective and successful, physicians and faculty members participating would have to demonstrate their desire and dedication to be a part of this activity. An objective is to have students at all levels to interact with one another in providing care, training, and performing research. There will be opportunities as this program evolves to expand to other countries.

Dr. Altman suggested that a blueprint be developed for use in other underserved countries. This can be helpful for other organizations who would want to develop programs similar to the Global Institute. In naming the institute, agreement should be reached so the institute recognizes other university programs involved in these projects. A suggestion was made to name the entity “The Global Institute for Community Health and Development at the Miller School of Medicine” since the institute would be based at the Miller School of Medicine.

Council members expressed some challenges that may be encountered if the existing document is submitted to the Faculty Senate as currently written. Additional suggestions for changes to the proposal and alternative names for the institute were made.

A motion was made and seconded to conditionally approve the proposal pending changes.

Vote: Unanimously approved

Announcement of New Search Committees

A Search Committee has been established for the Chair position of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, with Dr. Eckhard Podack serving as Chair. Dr. Altman announced that Dr. Nanette Bishopric will serve as the Council Representative on the Search Committee. The full committee membership listing will be distributed to the Council.

A Search Committee for the Chair position of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology is being established. A Council Representative will be included as a member of the Search Committee. A list of all members serving on this committee will be distributed when finalized.

Update on the Medical Library Committee

Dr. Ganju-Krishan announced that the Medical Library Committee will meet every other month. He discussed the library’s strengths and weaknesses as detailed in the LCME Library self-study. The Council was informed that all of the concerns have been addressed and corrective actions were taken.

A problem for the Calder Medical Library is that campus researchers and others are not aware of the many resources that the library has available. There is a need to educate the faculty and the students and one idea is to have a “Library Fair” in the future that would promote information about the use of the Calder Medical Library and available programs.

Council members offered suggestions on how to improve the use of the Medical Library. Having more journals available to browse through and creating a more social environment may draw more attention from students, faculty or others who would utilize the library.

The LCME Library self-study report was submitted to the Council Secretary.

Appointment, Promotion and Tenure process

Dr. Thomas Sick gave an overview of how the Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee functions. There are plans to develop an electronic system to expedite the work of this committee that would tie into similar reviews in each department. An issue that has been encountered by this committee is with the criteria for evaluation of faculty on the Clinical Educator Track. This matter will be discussed with the Dean next week.

Dr. Thurer stated that there have been 134 faculty members hired in the past three months. Last year, out of existing faculty that were up for promotion or awarded tenure, there were 48 considered in the main meeting. Of those 48 faculty members, 47 were approved as recommended. Dr. Thurer advised that, particularly with tenure decisions, the Provost's Office is closely examining outside letters of recommendation and evaluations. Additionally, they are now requiring five letters rather than three. All five letters have to be from individuals who do not have a close relationship with the candidate being considered.

There was a brief discussion regarding the status of research funding in making tenure decisions, including awards and percentile scores for proposals that were not funded. It is recommended that faculty members advise the committee on the status of their pending grants.

Principles & Roles of an Ombudsman

After reviewing the handouts on the Principles and Roles of an Ombudsman, the Council members had a brief discussion. There was a question on the funding of this part-time position. It is believed that agreement would be reached between the Dean and the Department Chair for the selected individual. The handout reflects the position as being a shared responsibility between the Council and the Dean's Office. Additional discussion was held regarding the role of an Ombudsman. Dr. Altman asked that any suggested changes or revisions to the document be sent to him for discussion with the Dean.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal.

Vote: Unanimously approved

New Business

No new business items were identified.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.