

Academic Council Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2006

Present: Cuartas-Hoyos, Blalock, Caughman, Callan, Duva (for Ginn), Jaffe, Joseph, Baker, Kiernan, Robinson, Cook, Lee, Cobb, Meyer, Treiber, Brigdon, Drisko, Schwab, Creelan

**I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Robinson at 4:10 PM**

**II. Approval of Minutes December 15, 2005:**

The minutes were approved with the following amendment: Marilee Creelan stated that the Faculty Manual update was completed within the timeframe specified by Dr. Rahn.

**III. Standing Committee Reports:**

**Faculty Governance: Ms. Pam Cook**

**Nominating Committee:** Ms. Cook reported that the nominating committee will have the ballot complete and ready to circulate to faculty within the next couple of weeks. A list of current vacancies was distributed at the meeting and Ms. Cook asked for suggestions for names of potential nominees for the ballot.

**Evaluation of Administrators:** The Evaluation is complete and of the 1774 that were distributed, 782 or 44% were completed. The results have been forwarded to the Provost.

**Bylaws:** The bylaws have been changed to reflect the change to the constitution of subcommittees that was approved in June 2005.

**Scholarship & Standards, Dr. Barbara Kiernan**

**Faculty Development:** Janet Bickel, Nationally known Faculty Development Consultant will be at MCG on March 14<sup>th</sup> to meet with most of the deans, a few chairs from the School of Medicine and will present a lecture at noon for all faculty. A free sack lunch will be provided for the first 100 attendees. She will return in May for a follow-up visit. A faculty development needs assessment survey will be sent to faculty next week that will be used by Ms. Bickel in preparation for her visit.

**Strategies & Responsibilities, Dr. Zheng Dong**

**Student Affairs Subcommittee** – Met on February 8, 2006. There was more student representation and participation. The subcommittee is in the process of organizing activities for students in all MCG schools.

**IV. Administrative Reports:**

ABSENT:

Dr. Michael Ash  
Dr. Michael Miller  
Ms. Diane Wray  
Mr. Andrew Newton  
Mr. Bryan Ginn

**Mr. Tony Duva, Associate Vice President, University Advancement  
for Mr. Bryan Ginn:**

1. Governor has recommended a 4% salary increase based upon merit and beginning in January '07. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees are holding hearings on all aspects of FY '06 Amended and FY '07 budgets--the House will make its report first and we believe the 4% will hold.
2. The governor recommended a \$9.850 million special funding initiative (SFI) for research enhancement here at MCG. Looks promising as this was included last year as well.
3. The governor recommended \$55.3 million in formula funding enhancements for the University System which is based upon enrollment growth. A recommendation by Rep. Bob Smith, chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education calls for a Commission to be established to thoroughly review the efficacy of the current USG funding mechanisms and to determine the relevance of a formula that has been in place for over 20 + years.
4. Two years ago a measure was passed that allowed USG schools to lapse funds from Continuing Education, Auxiliary Services, and Technology fees for expending in the next fiscal year. This measure now sunsets on July 1, so there is a bill that would continue this practice-----we support.
5. Democratic members of the Senate have introduced SB 537---"Search for the Cure Act of 2006". This bill allows stem cell research and creates a commission to review the efficacy of such research. Potentially controversial in an election year --- we are working closely with the GRA and USG on this measure.
6. Any number of measures that have been introduced to deal with health care and health related matters. Over 3700 bills and resolutions have been introduced to date and are either being held in committee or are being debated in some form or fashion. MCG Advancement office is actively tracking about 250 of these with about 25 being on the HOT list. We contact the appropriate campus or MCGHI officials to get perspective and calculate impact of these measures.
7. Please utilize this office first before contacting our friends in the Georgia General Assembly or in the US Congress and any executive agencies.

**Advancement**

1. University Advancement and External Affairs were reintegrated in November of 2005 under the leadership of Bryan Ginn, keeping the name University Advancement.
2. Some intra-departmental positional changes, some new hires such as a Director of Annual Giving, an Assistant Director of Alumni Affairs, and an Associate Director of Development Operations in the School of Medicine, and further modifications to the UA staff, such as an Advancement Research Coordinator and expansion of the advancement research department will help us generate additional supportive revenue streams for the University to support the overall mission of improving health and reducing the burden of illness in society. Please know that this primary goal, along with the goal of providing customer service to the entire campus relative to advancement and governmental affairs, is the directional bedrock of all our endeavors.

**Ms. Beth Brigdon, Vice President for Information Technology Support:**

Ms. Brigdon provided the AC with an outline of IT's planning project for 2006. She explained that IT has been working to lay foundation for the past three years and that currently IT will be using the planning project to prioritize the work they do and that it will serve as a governance process. IT has identified approximately 75 faculty members that have expressed an interest in the services provided by IT to recruit 25 to 30 faculty members to participate in focus groups to be facilitated by non-MCG trained professionals.

**Dr. Frank Treiber, Vice President for Research:**

Extramural funding has escalated from \$27.8 million in FY99 to an all time high of \$79.7 in FY05. However, the Medical College, similar to other academic institutions, experienced a slight decrease in NIH funding last year. This can be attributed in part to the declining NIH budget. Since the doubling of the NIH budget was completed there have not been significant increases in the budget. The projected increase for FY07 is .6%; if projections remain unchanged by FY09, nonbiodefense funding would decline by more than 7% after adjusting for inflation.

Dr. Treiber has plans to increase interdisciplinary translational based research across all five schools at the Medical College.

**Ms. Tamera Lee, Director, Greenblatt Library:**

The Greenblatt Library is hosting the National Library of Medicine's traveling exhibit "Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians" from March 8th to April 21st. Through competitive application spearheaded by Ms. Lisa Westrick, MCG's library was one of 3 libraries in Georgia and 61 in the country selected to host this Smithsonian-caliber exhibit. Interactive kiosks will be located on the first floor of the Library. Programs scheduled in association with the exhibit include:

March 14 @ 2:00 p.m. in Greenblatt Library--Opening Reception

March 22 @ 3:00 p.m. in Greenblatt Library--Cullen Lecture Series

March 28 @ 2:00 p.m. in Rm 140 of Auditorium Bldg--Dr Ruth Marie Fincher's presentation: Academic Medicine and Women Physicians: Some Stories from MCG

April 6 @ 7:00 p.m. @ Augusta Museum of History--Dr Russell Moore's presentation: Dr Margaret Wong

**V. Other Business:**

The General Faculty Assembly will be held on April 27, 2006 at 4:00 PM in the Small Auditorium. Outstanding Faculty and Retirees will be recognized. A reception will be held immediately after the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:55 PM