



**Medical College of Georgia
Academic Council Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2008**

Present: Mr. Bill Andrews (Vice Chair-Elect), Ms. Darra Ballance (Library), Dr. Philip Baker (SOD), Dr. Gretchen Caughman (SGS), Dr. Pam Cook (Secretary-Treasurer), Ms. Mary Downey (AHS), Dr. Connie Drisko (SOD), Dr. Janie Heath (SON), Ms. Jennifer Hilliard (Media Relations), Dr. Kevin Frazier (SOD), Dr. Barry Hammond (SOD), Dr. Lynn Jaffe (AHS), Dr. David Kozlowski (SOM), Ms. Tamera Lee (Library), Dr. Kathleen McKie (SOM), Dr. Doug Miller (SOM), Dr. Shelley Mishoe (SAHS), Dr. Kenneth Murdison (SOM), Mr. Jimmy Murray (Public Safety), Ms. Lori Prince (SAHS), Dr. Vincent Robinson (SOM), Ms. Felicia Smalls (Provost Office), Mr. Mark Staples (ITSS), Dr. Lara Stepleman (SOM), Dr. Martha Tingen (Vice Chair), Dr. Nathan Yanasak (SOM), Dr. Jack Yu (SOM)

I. Meeting called to order by Dr. Martha Tingen at 5:00 PM

II. Approval of Minutes February 21, 2008: Approved.

III. New Business

~ Mr. Jimmy Murray, Emergency Management Coordinator, presented information about *MCG Alert*. The system was purchased will go live on June 20, 2008. Every faculty, staff and student will be prompted by email to log onto *MyMCG* and update their personal information, i.e. email, work number, home number, cell phone number, etc. Most of the information will be downloaded through the Banner system. *MCG Alert* will call the numbers that are in the system with calls that are well regulated. There will be two test calls per year to test the system. Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa has the same system we are going to use. During their second test, 92% of the numbers called were reached successfully. Of the remaining 8%, 6.8% were busy signals and 1.2% had disconnected or wrong numbers. Everyone is encouraged to participate and spread the word.

~ The University System of Georgia faculty, as a whole, would like to have bylaws set up to take issues to the Board of Regents, Administrators, Chancellors, etc. The purpose of the University System of Georgia Faculty Council is to promote and foster the welfare of system faculty, in non-collective bargaining issues, through the combined creativity and expertise of faculty representatives from system institutions with two representatives (one voting and one non-voting) from each participating system institution. The Academic Council voted in favor of participating in this program.

~ Dr. Barry Hammond submitted a proposal for the next calendar year to evaluate the implementation of a shuttle service for MCG employees to outlying areas to help with transportation costs due to rising gas prices. The committee voted to discuss it in the upcoming calendar year.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

Faculty Governance: Dr. Jack Yu

Membership, Voting & Nomination Subcommittee

~ The nomination and election process has been successfully completed. The newly elected members are: Dr. Pam Cook, Vice Chair-Elect; Dr. Philip Baker, Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. Jennifer Pollock, MCGRI Board of Directors; Ms. Christina Yau and Dr. Ali Eroglu, Membership, Voting & Nomination Subcommittee; Dr. Lee Ann Merchen and Dr. Gayle Bentley, Statutes Review Subcommittee; Ms. Kathy Davies and Dr. Alison Lauber, Faculty Appointment, Promotion, Tenure & Post-Tenure Subcommittee; Ms. Lindsay Blake and Dr. Stanley Paul, Faculty Evaluation of Administrators Subcommittee; Mr. Erik Stuckart, Dr. John Stockstill, Dr. Michael Brands, Dr. Saroj Sharma and Mr. Peter Way, Faculty Grievance Subcommittee.

Statutes Review Subcommittee

~ There have been no new activities from the Subcommittee. House Bill 815 was passed into law. There will be a decoupling of the employer contribution between the Teacher Retirement System and the Optional Retirement Program. Since there is no minimum level to protect OPR participants, the Academic Council must closely monitor how the Board of Regents determines the annual contribution to the ORP.

Faculty Appointment, Promotion, Tenure & Post-Tenure

~ Dr. William Browning, Subcommittee Chair, will be leaving MCG at the end of June, 2008. Dr. Browning submitted a number of ideas and recommendations for consideration to improve the work conducted by the subcommittee.

Faculty Evaluation of Administrators

~ The annual Faculty Evaluation of Administrators was completed as of March 14. This year the evaluation was managed by Dr. Roman Cibirka's office. Dr. Barry Goldstein provided some feedback verbally on 5/1/08 as requested by the Executive Committee. The feedback mostly consisted of how many responses were obtained from each School/Institute.

Scholarship & Standards: Dr. Dave Hill***Faculty Development Subcommittee***

~ The faculty development proposal (which was renamed to Faculty Initiatives for Recruitment and Retention) was selected as one of the six initiatives to go to the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents did not approve funding but the Provost Office has asked to see the budget again. It was proposed that each School and the Library will have a well defined program for each faculty member to help them foster relationships with other faculty on campus.

Faculty Orientation

~ The Academic Council has a member representative on the Compliance Oversight Council (COC), a Committee appointed by the President to oversee efforts at MCG. Dr. Joe Cannon has been the representative for a number of years. If anyone is interested or would like to recommend someone to serve, please see Dr. Dave Hill, Mr. Bill Andrews or Dr. Pam Cook.

Strategies & Responsibilities: Dr. Lynn Jaffe***Faculty Grievance Subcommittee***

~ There is not current activity to report.

Student Affairs Subcommittee

~ Dr. Frazier provided an update on the first convocation service ceremony to honor students from almost all of our programs across campus for their service and leadership efforts. The event was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 with 38 student inductees in attendance along with faculty, staff and student guests. The next significant event to look out for from the Alpha Upsilon Phi (your campus wide service society) will be a service organization fair that is planned for the afternoon of the same day the annual Professionalism Forum is held for all new incoming students. Dr. Frazier extended thanks and appreciation to all the faculty and staff who have supported and were involved in celebrating the students' accomplishments.

Faculty Salary and Benefits Task Force

~ The task force was charged to address the issue of extending health insurance benefits to domestic partners. The task force met and made recommendations for a resolution. A motion was made, seconded and voted to adopt the resolution (see attached document), and go forward to the faculty for a vote. If the vote by campus faculty is favorable, a letter from President Daniel Rahn will be sent to the Chancellor as notification of the faculty vote regarding the resolution.

V. Comments from Administration:**School of Allied Health Sciences (SAHS): Dr. Shelley Mishoe, Dean**

~ The one significant achievement of the School is the ongoing celebration of the School of Allied Health Sciences 40th Anniversary. The celebration kicked off on January 1st with publication of our anniversary magazine and has been followed by a variety of events during the week of Homecoming with CE programs, a golf tournament and

banquet. More than 200 people attended the banquet of which over 30% were alumni and another 10% were friends of the School. Alumni traveled from out of state, including Colorado, California, Tennessee and Florida, to name a few. We recognized the "Fab 40" alumni from among 7,000 total alumni of our School. The celebrations will continue throughout this year during National Allied Health Week and culminating with a donor recognition event. The recent award of two ICAPP grants of 1.2 million dollars for Allied Health Workforce Development is a fitting achievement during the year-long celebration of the school.

~ The major hurdle of the School is to maintain a common voice among over 13 groups of professionals who prepare graduates at the baccalaureate, master's and graduate degree. The School is engaging in its strategic planning, focusing on increasing the amount of interdisciplinary collaboration and streamlining the major priorities across the school, to achieve greater efficiencies, effectiveness and teamwork.

School of Dentistry (SOD): Dr. Connie Drisko, Dean

~ The Georgia legislature approved \$70 million in funding to support construction of the new School of Dentistry facility. Dr. Drisko reported the SOD's challenge will be to raise the other \$50 million.

Library (LIB): Ms. Tamera Lee, Director

~ The Library has obtained approximately 100 new health sciences electronic books, including the R2 Library and additions to the Library's collection of e-books through Ovid. These are accessible from the Library's home page linked as e-books or in the A-Z list of publications.

~ One highlighted achievement for the year is the enhancement of the library as a place. In addition to a coffee bar, the Library has made customer-centered space changes to promote student engagement and active learning, including welcoming seating and lighting. The new space is configured around a core text and updated reference collection.

~ One highlighted challenge for the Library (other than budget) is to achieve an effective academic infrastructure in the advancement of a virtual library, particularly in balancing paramount access to information and electronic resources within MCG's robust security framework. This is especially important as we strive to ensure equivalency of access in support of MCG's strategic growth and high expectations for an asynchronous environment.

School of Medicine (SOM): Dr. Doug Miller, Dean

~ The one most significant thing accomplished this year was the accreditation site visit and successful reaccreditation to which everything else links. It was accomplished through the broadly based effort which involved over 100 faculty, the Library, Graduate School, students and leadership. The self-study was extremely informative and very valuable. The results of the self-study and site visit will be officially adjudicated by the LCME in June, 2008. The greatest challenge being faced is being competitive nationally on a relatively small base. In order to be competitive we need resources. We plan to grow and to expand to 40 students in Augusta by 2013.

School of Nursing (SON): Dr. Janie Heath for Dr. Lucy Marion, Dean

~ As reported in September, 2007, a major goal for the School of Nursing was to advance its research mission. As there is a shortage of practitioners in the nursing profession, this disparity is even greater among nurse scientists. With the collision of the worldwide nursing faculty shortage, less research funding, fewer and older nurses becoming scientists, formidable challenges to recruitment of seasoned investigators, and the crushing demands on schools of nursing to build the practice workforce, the MCG School of Nursing finds itself with a critical need for research faculty.

~ Having tried a variety of less than satisfactory strategies, Dean Marion envisioned the "Research Incubator", an innovative faculty development package to "grow our own." Dr. Sunita Dodani has taken the lead and added components and methods to make it work. Novice research faculty members assigned to the incubator are immersed in the research environment to encourage pursuit of their research interests and related scholarly activities. Incubator researcher offices are physically located adjacent to the Center for Nursing Research to ensure ready access to support services that will increase their productivity and success in securing extramural funding for their studies and projects. The most attractive feature for recruitment purposes is the distance post doctoral fellowship hosted by expert nurse scientist mentors in top 10 nursing research programs. So far, UNC

Chapel Hill, Johns Hopkins University, Indiana University and University of Illinois at Chicago nursing programs have agreed to participate in our incubator project. Each novice faculty member will have the benefit of an MCG mentor from nursing or another discipline.

~ As an exciting new concept, the MCG SON Research Incubator has sparked a great deal of interest in the nursing education community and the program is already proving to be an invaluable tool for recruiting research faculty. Presently, we have several highly qualified recruits under consideration now and many of our own PhD students who will graduate in the near future have expressed interest in the Research Incubator.

VI. Other Business

~ The Bylaw change regarding restructuring the Executive Committee was presented by Dr. Barry Hammond and read by Dr. Pam Cook. After the motion was made to accept the bylaw change, the floor was opened for discussion/debate. After much discussion, a change was made to the bylaws to add "president pro tem" as a fourth choice and the motion passed.

VII. Announcements

~ Dr. Martha Tingen, Vice Chair, whose term ends June 30, 2008, passed the gavel to Mr. Bill Andrews, Vice Chair-Elect, who assumes the role of Vice Chair on July 1, 2008.

VIII. Meeting adjourned by Dr. Martha Tingen at 6:20 PM

Submitted by,

Nancy Waks, Academic Council Recording Secretary

and

Pam Cook, DNP, RN
Secretary-Treasurer, Academic Council
Assistant Dean, School of Nursing