



**Medical College of Georgia
University Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2008**

Officers:

Mr. Bill Andrews (Vice Chair), Dr. Philip Baker (Secretary-Treasurer), Dr. Pam Cook (Vice Chair Elect)

Administration:

Dr. Kevin Frazier, Dr. Barry Goldstein, Dr. Dan Rahn

Library:

Ms. Darra Ballance, Dr. David King

School of Allied Health Sciences:

Dr. Carol Campbell (for Dr. Shelley Mishoe), Dr. Mariana D'Amico, Ms. Mary Downey, Dr. Lynn Jaffe, Ms. Lori Prince

School of Graduate Studies:

Dr. Wendy Bollag

School of Dentistry:

Dr. John Blalock

School of Medicine:

Dr. Teresa Coleman, Dr. Todd Merchen, Dr. Vincent Robinson

School of Nursing:

Dr. Janie Heath, Dr. Lucy Marion, Dr. Autumn Schumacher, Dr. Tami Thomas

Guest(s):

Ms. Susan Norton, Human Resources

I. Meeting called to order by Mr. Bill Andrews at 5:00 PM

II. Approval of Minutes October 16, 2008: Approved.

III. Standing Committee Reports

a. Faculty Governance: Dr. Barry Hammond

Membership, Voting & Nomination Subcommittee

1. Jaspal Gujral was elected chair of this subcommittee. David Lazarchik (SOD) will be leaving MCG in early Spring so a replacement will have to be found. There is no other activity to report at this time.

Statutes Review Subcommittee

1. The Statutes Review Subcommittee has been diligently working (under the guidance of Dr. Barry Goldstein and Mr. Andrew Newton) towards the revision of the MCG Statutes in preparation for the upcoming SACS accreditation. They are currently in the final draft revision stages.
2. The proposed amendment to change the name from Academic Council to "University Faculty Senate" passed unanimously at the Fall General Faculty Assembly on Thursday, November 20, 2008.

Faculty Appointment, Promotion, Tenure & Post-Tenure

1. Alison Lauber (SOM) has been elected chair of this subcommittee. There is no other activity to report at this time.

Faculty Evaluation of Administrators

1. Lindsay Blake has been elected chair of this subcommittee. There is no other activity to report at this time.

b. Scholarship & Standards: Dr. Dave Hill

Faculty Development Subcommittee

1. The subcommittee met on 12/2/08 with focused discussion of faculty orientation issues and campus wide faculty development issues. Reports have been requested from the different school representatives regarding respective school efforts. The reports will be collated and the results will be distributed to all members of the subcommittee, as well as the Executive Committee. There will be a follow-up meeting in January to generate recommendations as to what actions should be taken regarding faculty orientation specifically and faculty development in general, keeping in mind the current financial situation.

Faculty Recognition Task Force

1. There are no new activities to report at this time.

Library Resources Subcommittee

1. The subcommittee met on 11/14/08 with the Library Collection Development Steering committee. The Library is looking at ways to optimize the collections in a more costly environment with no increase in budget. The Library is looking at ways to enhance student curriculum and Library interactions, e.g. possibly linking library resources off of Web CT and Vista. The library is also looking at ways to increase faculty awareness of underutilized resources (e.g. that searches from Google can be linked to the MCG Library to take advantage of our full text journal agreements as well as linking to Pub Med from off campus through the library).

Research Ethics Subcommittee

1. The subcommittee has had no activity over the last 3 months.

University Assessment

1. The University Advancement Subcommittee is now fully populated and will be meeting soon with Chair Roman Cibirka.

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

1. The subcommittee has had no business this semester.

Faculty Salary and Benefits Task Force

1. A letter of support was sent by Dr. Rahn to Chancellor Davis on 9/2/08 regarding the domestic partner Benefits resolution that passed by faculty vote. Chancellor Davis sent a reply that he had received the letter and would take the request into consideration.

Strategic Initiative Activities

1. A task force is being formed to address faculty concerns regarding a potential one-time conversion from the ORP to TRS.

Student Affairs Subcommittee

1. There are no new activities to report at this time.

IV. Comments from Administration:**President: Dr. Dan Rahn**

- ~ Dr. Rahn began by stating we are in unstable times. There are a lot of unknowns and it is hard to predict where the budget will end up. The next fiscal year (FY 09 – FY 10) is not likely to be any stronger economically than this fiscal year. He also stated that unemployment is liked to cap out at 8 to 9 percent. We have implemented an 8% reduction of state funding, which was done without any layoffs. It is uncertain whether that reduction will be enough. Dr. Rahn said he would not be surprised if word was received that we had to cut to 10%. This creates a challenging environment, which means we may have to look for more revenue.
- ~ Dr. Rahn announced that he has implemented restructuring at the administrative level of the institution. The change will make the administrative structure at MCG more in line with the administrative structure at the other research universities in the system as well as peer institutions. Dr. Rahn stated he now has to spend much more time externally in raising private funding. Thus, he has realigned it so that he will no longer be the focal point of operations.

Other Business

- ~ Mr. Andrews stated that since the last University Faculty Senate meeting we have added six new representatives from the SOM. At the Fall General Faculty Assembly in November, the resolution to change the name of this faculty body from Academic Council to University Faculty Senate was presented and unanimously approved. Ms. Waks is working diligently to effect the name change on our website. Dr. Bentley and the Statutes Review Subcommittee have made the necessary changes and proposed updates to the MCG statutes. Mr. Andrews also stated that 59.23% participated in the Faculty Satisfaction Survey. A report is expected from the consulting agency in January.
- ~ Dr. Baker announced that the proposed '09-'10 budget for the University Faculty Senate was submitted to Dr. Rahn and Dr. Goldstein, and that it will be sent to University Faculty Senate members for review. He hopes to hear soon on its approval.
- ~ Ms. Susan Norton, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, addressed the changes in health insurance coverage. The Board of Regents decided to reduce the employer contribution to health for the PPO and HMO, which impacts the indemnity plan as well. As a result, the enrollment period has been reopened for a short time. As of noon on 12/11/08, 176 people had made changes to their plan. Reminders will continue to go out until the open enrollment expires. Letters have been sent to individuals on leave as well as retirees to ensure everyone has an opportunity to make changes if they desire. On a positive note, Ms. Norton mentioned that the ORP contribution rate is going up to \$16,500 (pre-tax), beginning 1/1/09. If you are age 50 or over, there

is a catch-up provision that allows it to increase to \$22,000, and you may contribute up to the maximum in both plans.

V. Announcements

- ~ Dr. Cook announced there are plans for a February and March Forum for the Future. Plans will soon be released.
- ~ The Tech Fair is 3/11/09. Ms. Beth Brigdon has requested that all faculty participate if they are interested.
- ~ The next University Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2009.

VI. Meeting adjourned by Mr. Bill Andrews at 5:45 PM

Submitted by,

Nancy Waks
University Faculty Senate Recording Secretary

and

Philip Baker, DDS
Secretary-Treasurer, University Faculty Senate
Associate Professor, School of Dentistry