

## **September 4, 2007, the Medical School at the University of Minnesota**

### **MINUTES University of Minnesota Medical School Faculty Advisory Council**

**September 4, 2007**

The meeting of the Medical School Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) was held on Tuesday, at 4:00 p.m. in Room B646 Mayo Memorial Building and 263 School of Medicine Duluth (via ITV). Esam El-Fakahany, Chair of the FAC presided.

**Members Present:** Drs. Sharon Allen, Robert Bache, Gregory Beilman, Bradley Benson, Peter Bitterman, James Boulger, Linda Burns, James Carey, Levi Downs, Esam El-Fakahany, Donna Forbes, Kalpna Gupta, David Hunter, David Ingbar, Marc Jenkins, James Nixon, James Pacala, Christopher Pennell, David Rothenberger, Yoji Shimizu, Brian Sick, Todd Tuttle, Carol Wells, and Jo-Anne Young.

**Dean's Office Staff Present:** Allison Campbell Jensen and Patricia Mulcahy.

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#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Dr. Esam El-Fakahany, Chair of the FAC, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions of new and continuing FAC members were made.

#### **Committee Charge**

Dean Powell explained to the FAC members that they represent the faculty to the Dean's Office. The FAC is very useful to the Dean and she values their opinions and ideas. She further explained that throughout the year, she would bring ideas and plans to this group for their consideration and insights. The FAC is also responsible for nominating members to other important Medical School Committees, such as the Admissions Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee, Education Council, and Committees on Student Scholastic Standing. The Dean then stressed to the Council that because their advice and consideration is so helpful to her, regular attendance at meetings is important.

#### **Medical School Advancement Plans**

The Dean informed the Council that over the summer she gave a presentation to President Bruininks about the finances of the Medical School, at the request of Dr. Cerra. This presentation focused on the current state of the Medical School finances (with respect to the University budget model) and where the Medical School wanted to be.

The Dean explained that the current situation of the finances create an annual structural deficit of \$29 million (M). While reserves are being used to cover this deficit, this situation is not ideal, and the accrediting body for the Medical School (the Liaison Council for Medical Education) expressed a problem with this previously.

Dean Powell explained that this deficit is due to several factors. State funding has dramatically decreased over the past decade. Additionally, the Medical School is unique from other colleges at the University, as it cannot create revenue by raising tuition. The Medical School has a large number of adjunct faculty that are involved in teaching our students. These adjunct faculty are counted as Medical School faculty, and the Medical School and its departments are responsible for paying for their benefits. The Medical School has over 900 fellows and residents managed through our clinical departments, which is a cost of over \$8M annually not including the cost of teaching. Research and clinical dollars account for the largest portions of the budget. In 2002, they each accounted for approximately 35% of the budget. Currently, the clinical component accounts for 42%, and the research component for only 27%. The increase in the clinical component has only increased with the cost of practice increase, so our physicians must now generate more RVUs to make clinical dollars. Additionally, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget has been tightened, so it is more difficult for faculty to attain the level of funding they previously held.

In 1994-1995, the Medical School was in the top 20 schools for NIH funding. The Medical School is currently at 27 in this ranking. The goal is to return to the top 20. This is very important to the University, as the Medical School accounts for one-third of the research at the University of Minnesota. Therefore, in order for the University to be a top research institution, the Medical School must also be a top research School.

The Medical School is preparing for a request of the legislature by appointing three task force groups to provide recommendations by mid October. These three groups are being directed by an ad hoc steering committee, which consists of Timothy Ebner, Head of Neuroscience; Terry Bock, Associate Vice President and Chief of Staff for the Academic Health

Center; and Roby Thompson, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs. The Research Task Force has been asked to develop strategies to move research programmatically forward and to identify research priorities. This task force is being chaired by Harry Orr. The Finance Task Force has been asked to challenge the assumptions currently made about our budget and make recommendations. This task force is being chaired by Leo Furcht. The Clinical Alignment Task Force is identifying how the alignment between UMP, the Medical School, and Fairview works, and what the applications are. This task force is being chaired by Selwyn Vickers.

The Dean explained and Council concurred that this is an important time for the Medical School. We have the attention of the University administration as well as a new President and Chief Executive Officer of Fairview, Mark Eustis, who is expressing interest in more involvement with the Medical School. Dr. Rothenberger added that Mr. Eustis will be speaking at the annual UMMC Medical Staff Awards on October 16 at 6:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for faculty to show their support and introduce themselves to Mr. Eustis. It is important for Fairview to think of the faculty as the engine that drives the hospital and School.

Council members asked the Dean if it was necessary to simply bring in new faculty, rather than refocus the current faculty with new priorities. Could the Medical School simply use what it currently has in a better way? Additionally, Council wondered if it would be possible to reorganize so that the Medical School could be more focused and “be the best at what we currently do”, and also asked if there were outside philanthropic sources in the State. It was also noted that excellence in our clinical programs must mirror excellence in our research programs. The clinics and hospitals must mirror the aspirations of the School.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeni Skar  
Staff to the FAC

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