

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER

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FACULTY SENATE
Robert Forbes, President
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FACULTY SENATE
2007-08 TERM MINUTES

DATE: February 15, 2008

TIME: 1:04 PM

PLACE: D505, School of Dentistry

PRESIDING: Robert Forbes, President

PRESENT: Dentistry: Ed Hill and James Lott
SHRP: Becca Pearson, Ken Heard, and Kit Stilley (alternate for Sandra Horne)
Medicine: Honey East, Stan Chapman, Olga McDaniel, Parminder Vig, Arthur Calimaran, Robert Forbes, Binford Nash, and Kenneth Vick
Nursing: Renee Williams, LaVerne Grant, and Tracilia Beacham
UMC Div.: March Ard, Jonathan Fratkin, Mary Marquart, and Anwer Siddiqi
Guest: Rob Rockhold

ABSENT: Dentistry: Pia Kirk
Medicine: Christina Barlow, Michelle Horn, and Darren Schmidt

I. Call to order – Robert Forbes

Robert Forbes called the meeting to order after determining a quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 18, 2008 contained attendance errors. Stan Chapman, Renee Williams, and Jonathan Fratkin were documented as absent when in fact they were present. The minutes were approved pending correction of the attendance errors.

III. New Business

Rob Rockhold attended the meeting and presented information regarding the direction of UMC. He discussed two major topics, the changes occurring at UMC and the Office of Academic Affairs.

A. The Medical Center today is at a crossroads of change, and that Dr. Jones has the goal of moving through the radically changing environment of healthcare and education. The following were listed as visions of change for UMC:

1. Increase the number of physicians we train (from 100 to 150 per class).
2. clinical service (Dr. Ferniany will speak about this topic)
3. Become an institution that is in the middle one-third of those with research funding in the U.S.
4. All major academic programs should have average scores at or above the respective national average.

Dr. Meredith, the Commissioner of Institutes of Higher Learning, has called for an increase in, and quality of, graduates by 2014-2015 because education drives the economy in Mississippi. Economy is driving the changes in the vision of UMC.

Another topic presented by Dr. Rockhold was of SACS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Weland of SACS wants to show that we are policing ourselves.

Questions and Answers:

Q (March Ard): I don't understand how the global economy is placing pressure on us to change.

A: An example would be that physicians and other services could be outsourced, so we need to train ours to compete with the general pool.

Q (Stan Chapman): How will we implement the goals, for example, the increase in classes, laboratory space, and teaching loads?

A: The projected budget is a lot of money. This is a long-range planning process. I don't have a specific answer. We will need new monies from the legislature.

Q: Will the changes be incremental or all at once?

A: They will probably occur over a period of years.

Q: Years ago, didn't the class size increase from 100 to 120 and then decrease back down to 100? It was based on federal funding, but we decided that the quality of education prompted us to decrease the class size.

RR comment: We are inexpensive for medical school. We are trying to recruit out-of-state students.

Q (Olga McDaniel): What are we doing to increase the number of graduate students? We don't have many.

A: I think we are similar to the rest of the country. Science has not been a focus of American youth recently. We are not getting enough students interested in science early. Dr. Granger says that things are changing; we are working toward a common curriculum in several programs.

Q: What about physiology? They have postdocs but little or no students.

March Ard: Dr. Granger is going to have a program next Fall to attract students.

A: Yes, there are many postdocs, but other programs are being started to encourage more students. We are developing better recruiting strategies.

Q: Will there be a time when our need to help Mississippi residents is eased?

A: Our best bet is to train our own. They are the ones more likely to stay and work here.

Q (Ben Nash): SACS is voluntary but could be catastrophic if we do not earn our accreditation.

A: Yes.

B. Office of Academic Affairs

The Office of Academic Affairs did not exist until 2002. We are still building. We have a newsletter, TRIAD, and we are looking for comments and authors. On the last page of TRIAD is a description of scholarship awards.

There is a campus-wide seminar series associated with the Faculty Scholarship Exchange on the last Wednesday of each month. On February 27 at noon in R153, Dr. Meredith will present the Changing Face of Healthcare.

What you can do as senators to help other faculty members:

1. Encourage them to be pro-active. Faculty members have not had to generate their own salaries. Supplemental salary can come from grants with indirect costs, and indirect costs can come back to the department.
2. Demand that faculty get support, direction, and mentorship, especially in the area of promotion and tenure. Faculty will now have to choose a primary track. Faculty members should meet with their chairs once per year to discuss expectations. Application for tenure is usually in the sixth year. I recommend that faculty members undergo a rigorous evaluation in the third year in preparation for tenure application. Finally, everything should be in writing.

We are going to acquire new software that will allow us to transition from a standard CV to a more expansive faculty portfolio that includes more points, benchmarks, etc. There is no date set for acquisition of this software.

IV. Old Business

Robert Forbes stated that he is still attempting to obtain speakers for meetings.

V. New Business

None

VI. Announcements

LaVerne Grant announced that she will retire in June. She has arranged for her replacement for the upcoming year.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m. The next Faculty Senate meeting will be March 21, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Marquart
Secretary