

**USF College of Medicine
Faculty Council Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 26, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.
MDC 2301**

**Videoconferencing at
South Tampa Center for Advanced Healthcare, Room 5051C**

Faculty President Huntington Potter called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes

There being no quorum of Faculty Council representatives, President Potter postponed approval of the December 2009 minutes until the next meeting.

Early Retirement Incentive Program

President Potter discussed the Early Retirement Incentive Program that has just been announced by the USF Provost's Office. Details regarding the program were emailed to the faculty for review prior to this meeting. The College of Medicine version is forthcoming, and is likely to be very similar. The Financial Oversight Committee has discussed the program and has approved the idea in principle. Applications for early retirement will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The program will only apply to state salary dollars. President Potter asked the faculty to email him with any concerns about the program.

President's Report

President Potter noted that many faculty have expressed an interest in contributing their medical services to the relief efforts in Haiti. Dr. John Sinnott has advised that the Board of Governors has weighed in on this subject. In order to go to Haiti, faculty must be asked by the U.S. Government/FEMA or there may be insufficient legal protections and insurance. Dr. Potter has received an email from Dr. Sinnott, which contains a communication from the SUS. The email will be forwarded to all faculty and should be read carefully.

The President reported that Dr. Robert Belsole presented an overview of practice plan finances to the Financial Oversight Committee. As many faculty know, the practice plan lost money this past fiscal year. Dr. Belsole has been invited to present a similar report at the February Faculty Council meeting. If any faculty have questions or concerns that they would like to see him address, they should send an email to President Potter or Vice President Bryan Bogner.

President Potter reviewed several newsworthy articles that were distributed to faculty prior to the meeting. The first, from the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, pertained to Florida Atlantic University, which will no longer offer medical degrees in partnership with the University of Miami. Instead, FAU's medical

program will be a collaboration with The Scripps Research Institute, which has opened its Florida campus at FAU in Jupiter. President Potter pointed out that the prestige of Scripps could draw research faculty to FAU, thus hurting recruitment efforts at USF. This would be in addition to the recruitment pull of the Burnham Institute and the University of Central Florida. The President suggested that perhaps the Faculty Council could appoint a subcommittee to make a recommendation to the Faculty Council as to how these concerns might be addressed. He will send an email to ask for volunteers to serve on the proposed subcommittee.

The second article was from *Science* and reported on budget cuts at the Florida state universities, particularly FSU. FSU has experienced the largest number of faculty layoffs, including a number of tenured faculty. USF has fared better than the other universities and this can be attributed in part to the stimulus and to reduced spending in anticipation of budget cutbacks. There is some concern as to whether USF will be able to remain in this position once the stimulus money goes away. Further, the situation at NIH is getting worse as competition is increasing for fewer grants.

The third article, from the *Orlando Sentinel*, points out that Florida has invested over \$700 million to jumpstart biotechnology, with only 1,100 jobs created thus far. President Potter commented that this might be an opportunity for USF to work with the Legislature to bring some biotechnology money to Tampa Bay, which missed out under the first round of funding. Any such opportunities would likely not be available until the recession eases.

Old Business

President Potter reported that a representative from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine was unable to be present today to discuss the potential departmental name change. Dr. Patrick Marsh, Faculty Council Representative, is scheduled to discuss this topic at the February meeting.

A question was raised from the floor with regard to the outcome of discussions at the recent Faculty Council retreat. President Potter noted that a report was to have been made available to administration through the facilitator. He believes it may have been sidetracked by the recently released Faculty Forward report, but will check on the status.

A suggestion was made from the floor that a Mentor Match update would be informative. President Potter will ask Dr. John Curran to give a report at an upcoming meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m.