

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

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010 - 5:30 p.m.
MDC 2301**

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

In the absence of President Huntington Potter, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Bryan Bognar at 5:35 p.m.

Minutes

There being no quorum of Faculty Council representatives, Vice President Bognar postponed approval of the December 2009 and January 2010 minutes.

Early Retirement Incentive Program

Dr. John Curran, Senior Executive Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs, reported that an announcement is forthcoming with regard to an Early Retirement Incentive Program for faculty in the College of Medicine. Applications will be taken between April 12 and 14. Full details are available on the Faculty Affairs Website.

Proposed Name Change: Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine

Dr. John Zak, Faculty Council Representative from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, was designated by his department to report to the Faculty Council with regard to a proposed departmental name change. This issue was initially discussed at the December 2009 Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Zak reported that the department recently changed the name of its Institute for Research in Psychiatry to the Institute for Research in Psychiatry and Neurosciences. This change was approved by Dean Klasko. Subsequently, the Department Chair, Dr. Francisco Fernandez, proposed that the name of the department be changed to the Department of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, to make it consistent with the new name of the Institute. It was felt that the name change will reflect the department's involvement in the neurosciences. The department faculty voted to support the departmental name change.

There was considerable discussion following Dr. Zak's report and some concerns were expressed, particularly with regard to the impact a name change could have on other stakeholders. Several Faculty Council representatives felt that more information should have been provided to the Faculty Council by the department, and perhaps representatives of other affected departments should have been invited to share their views. Vice President Bognar indicated that he is not sure what can be done at this point, other than to report back to Dean Klasko on today's discussion.

USFPG Report

An update on the practice plan was provided by Dr. Robert Belsole, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs. Dr. Belsole reported that a new contract with Tampa General Hospital went into effect in October 2009 and is three years in duration. There will be an increase of about \$7.4 million per year in terms of cash to the bottom line. Tampa General will contribute \$3.3 million to Graduate Medical Education, something they have never done before.

Dr. Belsole went on to review the financial situation of the practice plan. Some audit difficulties were experienced last year, due to devaluation of accounts receivable, IT errors and basic accounting shortcomings. A consultant has been brought in to put safeguards in place to prevent a recurrence. At the end of last year, the practice plan had a \$12.5 million loss on the balance sheet, which included a \$6.3 million investment loss. Expenses continue to outpace revenue this year, even though patient volume has been increasing. Much of this can be attributed to a higher percentage of non-paying patients, as well as the high cost of services such as imaging. Cost cutting and other measures are being initiated in an effort to reduce the deficit and prevent the practice plan from becoming unsustainable.

Dr. Belsole's presentation generated much discussion. Concerns were expressed with regard to the current state of practice plan finances, including the deficit, the bad debt situation and the accounting errors. It was suggested that USF physicians need stronger encouragement to increase their utilization of the ASC as one way to bring in more revenue.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.