

Meeting Minutes

I. Approval of meeting minutes

Faculty Council President Dr. Michael Schoenberg presented the May 2016 minutes for approval. The minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Proposal to create a new Department: BioMedical Engineering

Dr. Phillip Marty introduced a proposal for a new MCOM and USF College of Engineering (COE) program in BioMedical Engineering. A work group, put together by Dr. Lockwood and Dr. Robert Bishop, Dean of COE, has recommended that the new department be jointly sponsored and governed by the both Colleges (Engineering and Medicine).

The proposed benefits of the program include providing a multidisciplinary, state-of-the art environment for training scientists and engineers for employment in new and emerging fields of medicine and engineering; interdisciplinary research programs that could lead to medical innovations and novel therapies; increased programmatic funding, research center grants, licensing and royalties and philanthropy; and enhanced patient care and healthcare delivery. The BioMedical Engineering Task Force (comprised of equal faculty members from each College) considered the following issues in the development of the proposal: department administrative structure, governance and staffing, faculty appointments, promotion and tenure, space and facilities, departmental funding, revenue sharing and space allocation, research opportunities, education programs, future growth, and resources required.

The development of this proposal follows the USF System policies and procedures concerning proposed changes in academic units, Policy Number 10-055. In order to proceed, the proposal must be approved by the Faculty Councils of both Colleges and the Faculty Senate. The proposal will be posted on the MCOM Faculty Council website for further review. Dr. Marty encouraged faculty to provide feedback. Discussion on a vote will take place at a future date.

III. FMLA, Maternity/Paternity Leave

Dr. Schoenberg provided an overview of FMLA and Paid Maternity/Paternity policy at USF. Aspects of the policy were reviewed and feedback invited from Faculty Council. Sufficient interest was raised to move forward with more detailed discussions with HR representatives and Faculty Affairs personnel at a future meeting.

IV. Research Q & A

Dr. Stephen Liggett spoke about the recent merging of TGH and the USF Health Office of Clinical Research. With two key leadership positions recently being filled by USF employees, Anderson Brabson, MS, as Director of Administration, and Catherine M. Jahrsdorfer, RN, BSN, as Director of Clinical Operations at the TGH Office of Clinical Research, the future possibilities to optimize clinical research at both institutions is being realized to create a collaborate and fiscally responsible research environment at TGH.

Dr. Liggett also encouraged faculty to sign up for training to learn use of i2b2: Informatics for Integrating Biology and the Bedside; an NIH-funded National Center for Biomedical Computing. i2b2 is a linux-based open access system administered by Harvard Medical School. Interested faculty were instructed to contact Dr. Liggett's office.

A question was asked about the return of indirect costs to USF Health. Dr. Liggett said that the money has not yet been received, and that negotiations to increase the indirect rate were ongoing. The current rate he said was about 17%, and that the rate being requested was about 55%. Dr. Liggett said he would look into when the funds can be expected to be received.

Finally, Dr. Liggett discussed the Clinical Research Space (CRC) at the Morsani Building. He said plans to expand the CRC to the fourth floor were well developed and could double the current space. The expansion would include more exam rooms for patients and that he would like to see the new space ready for use within the next year. Discussion included the possibility of the Department of Ophthalmology also vying for space at the Morsani Building and CRC expansion could be dependent on that decision as well.

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.