

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
Research Faculty Meeting
September 20, 2017

Attendees:

Barbara Elliott
Dr. Vijay Boggaram
Dr. Larry Lowry
Dr. Hua Tang
Dr. Torry Tucker
Dr. Leo Holm
Dr. Vijay Rao

Dr. Rao started the meeting with the committee reviewing minutes from August 2017 meeting. The committee approved minutes as written.

Dr. Rao explained to the committee the events at the last APT meeting. When the committee planned to meet and discuss the promotion, the Senate was not informed. When Dr. Rao reminded that committee chairs about the role of the Faculty Senate appointees in the APT, they said they were not aware of this but offered that the Senate appointees could come as non-voting members. Dr. Rao attended the meeting but left the meeting after some time when he realized that he couldn't freely participate in the discussion. After a couple of months, Dr. Rao found the memo from Dr. Calhoun dated in 2015 stating that the members of the faculty senate are voting members in the APT.

Dr. Rao congratulated Dr. Leo Holms for being elected as the Chair-elect. After much discussion regarding the vacancy of the Senate positions of the clinical faculty because of Dr. Holm's, a senator representing the clinical faculty, election to the Chair-elect, it was decided that a memo should be sent to the clinical faculty to see who would be interested in the position. Comments about diversity from different departments would be ideal, and Dr. Rao stressed that we want someone who would be able to attend the Senate meetings more regularly, be engaged and will speak their mind as well as give their input.

It was noted that this would be a good time in trying to encourage clinicians to engage actively in the Senate since the proposed partnership with Ardent may impact the clinical faculty a lot more than the research faculty. This will be an opportunity to participate in the discussion as to what is going to happen with the clinical side which is an important issue.

The committee discussed the Senate appointments to the APT committee. Dr. Rao was nominated last year. He suggested Dr. Boggaram name for the APT appointment from the research. But Dr. Boggaram and others asked Dr. Rao to continue in the role. Dr. Holm suggested Dr. Pattie Olusola as a clinical candidate for the APT committee, and other Senators agreed to this if she is willing to serve.

The committee was given a copy of the faculty appointment for the School of Community and Rural Health. It has been agreed that the Faculty Senate by-laws have to be revised to include faculty representatives from the new school in the Faculty Senate. After much discussion about the number of representatives from the clinic, research and the School of Community and Rural Health, there was a consensus among the Senators to include two new representatives from the School of Community and Rural Health to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Rao gave the committee a review regarding the UT System Faculty Shared Governance meeting and discussed the preparations of the committee visiting our campus in December of 2017. The scheduling of their visit and Dr. Calhoun's calendar was still being organized.

The last issue in the meeting was regarding the policy on mandatory vaccinations. The recommendations that were sent to administrators were met with no response. It was suggested that all committee members be given the opportunity to vote regarding the issues before presenting the Faculty Senate's response to President and the executive committee. It was also discussed the need for some procedures to discuss proposed changes and feedback. There are concerns about varicella being added to the mandatory vaccinations policy for non-patient care employees. The committee understands that they have no power in changing the policy, but they felt that the administration need to know what their thoughts were on this matter. The Faculty Senate does not want to formally approve the policy where the majority of the faculty has a problem with specific language. Specific revisions to the policy at a couple of places could fix the problem.

Meeting Adjourned

4:00 p.m.

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