

# Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate May 10, 2006

In Attendance: Drs. Baruch-Bienen, Brackley, Evans, Geelhoed, Krolick, Olson, Robichaux, Yew.

Absent: Drs. Amaechi, Kahlenberg, Keiser, Lam, Luduena, Meltz, Parsons, Plastino, Ruzicka, Shah, Sorenson, Tekmal, Vargas. Verrett, Vines, Whang,

Guests: Dr. Theresa Chiang  
Vice President for Academic Administration

Dr. Bonnie Blankmeyer  
Professor  
Executive Director, Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Office  
Institutional Employee Advisor

Convened: 4:05 PM

## University Updates

Dr. Theresa Chiang  
Vice President for Academic Administration

### President's Office:

Recently, UTHSCSA faculty members have been elected to the UT Academy for Health Science Education. They are: Drs. Richard Luduena, Shirlyn McKenzie, Ellen Kraig, and Dennis Blessing. Dr. Kenneth Shine, Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, defines this group as an "elite organization giving recognition to our most outstanding educators", and the members will "oversee the System-wide efforts in education, including the Annual Symposium, Small Grants Program, Awards Program, and WEB site for sharing curricula".

### Graduate School:

A search committee, chaired by Dr. Bettie Sue Masters, will begin the search for a new chair of Cellular and Structural Biology.

The search for a chair of Molecular Medicine has been restarted.

A search for an endowed chair in chemistry sponsored by the Robert A. Welch Foundation is underway.

The Graduate Program Planning Committee, composed of faculty from the various graduate programs, has been charged with developing proposals for a complement of new graduate programs which will stress cross-disciplinary and thematic programs.

## Medical School:

On-going Chair recruitments include: Anesthesiology, Ophthalmology and Radiation Oncology.

Clinical infrastructure of the Medical Arts and Research Center (MARC) is under-going development for an estimated opening in 2008. Eight clinics currently located in the South Texas Medical Center in leased space will be consolidated, updated and housed in the 250,000-square-foot MARC. The MARC will serve the South Texas area by providing numerous specialists and offering programs that are being developed in conjunction with the University Health System.

The Regional Academic Health Center in Edinburg (E-RAHC) was officially Dedicated on April 25, 2006. Efforts are underway to recruit researchers to support the research missions in the Valley.

Groundbreaking on a second building in Harlingen. First floor is slated to be a VA Outpatient Clinic with the second floor to be dedicated to Medical School Clinical research space.

## Update: Institutional Employee Advisor

Dr. Bonnie Blankmeyer  
Institutional Employee Advisor

Dr. Blankmeyer was named last fall as Institutional Employee Advisor, a new ombudsman-like position. She provided the Senate with an overview of her activities in this capacity since her appointment. She described her efforts to provide additional services to the staff and faculty in her role as a neutral dispute resolution practitioner, stressing that she provides an informal, confidential and unofficial means to expedite the resolution of potential conflicts before they intensify to more serious formal complaints.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:05