

Minutes of the Meeting of the Faculty Senate September 12, 2007

In Attendance: Sally Combest, James Evans, Helen Sorenson, David Vines, Bennett Amaechi, Barry Norling, Ronald Verrett, William Clark, Keith Krolick, William Morgan, Renee Yew, Deborah Baruch-Bienen, Krista Bowers, Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal, Mickey Parsons

Absent: Christopher Franka, Daniel Johnson, Robert Nolan, Leticia Vargas, Margaret Brackley, Rebecca Garcia-Michels, Catherine Robichaux

Guests: Dr. Robert Kaminski, Assistant VP for Academic Administration
Mr. Jerry York, Vice President & CIO
Dr. Ivon Foster, Assistant Vice President Information Management & Services

Convened: 4:00 PM

Dr. Deborah Baruch-Bienen, 2006-2007 Chair of the Faculty Senate, passed on the gavel to the 2006-2007 Senate Chair – Dr. Keith Krolick.

Faculty Leadership Award – Dr. James Startzell

Dr. Verrett introduced James Startzell, DMD, as the recipient of the 2007 UTHSCSA Faculty Senate Leadership Award. Dr. Startzell is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Training in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He joined the Health Science Center Family as a member of the Dental School faculty in 1997 following a distinguished career in the United States Army where he held strategic command positions and was recognized with many awards and honors. The same characteristics of an unwavering work ethic, an uncompromising standard of ethics and a genuine or authentic caring for students, patients and his colleagues have marked his career in both the United States Army and during the ten (10) years at the Health Science Center. As the Director of Graduate Training, he has shown skill and vision (insight) in managing a dual Degree (DDS/MD) Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery training program that is recognized throughout the United States. Dr. Startzell has been instrumental in integrating predoctoral dental students in externships and selectives associated with the dental specialty of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. It is not new for Dr. Startzell to deal with challenging situations. Challenges that he faced in the Iraqi Desert when he served as Deputy Commander for Clinical Services 12th Evacuation hospital in operation Desert Storm. A current challenge that he has faced centers on the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Department when the Chairman of the department, Dr. Stephen (Chuck) Milam was sidelined with an inoperable brain tumor. Dr. Startzell's leadership has enabled the department to continue functioning at the very highest level and to carry on in the direction that Dr. Milam had staked out before his illness. Without missing a beat or stepping away from the many committees that he serves on at the Dental School, University Hospital, San Antonio District Dental Society, State and National Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Organizations or the teaching and clinic

responsibilities, Dr. Startzell has been a “Thread that runs so true” for the OMS Department. With his leadership and willingness to share and serve, we have been able to carry out our mission, as a department, supporting the Dental School in its mission, as well as the University Hospital and the Dental Community of San Antonio. Dr. James M. Startzell has made and kept a commitment to serve and give back to his profession, community and his patients. With this unwavering commitment Dr. Startzell is the model of a teacher, leader and servant.

Administration Leadership Award – Dr. Christi Walter

Dr. Morgan introduced Christi Walter, PhD, as the recipient of the 2007 UTHSCSA Faculty Senate Administration Leadership Award. For more than two years Dr. Christi Walter has served selflessly and with truly exceptional ability as the interim Chair of the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology (CS&B). Usually, the role of an interim chair is to just maintain the status quo. Dr. Walter, on the other hand, has clearly redefined that position in a very active and innovative way. She has been so effective that the faculty of the Department wishes, in vain it seems, that she seek appointment as permanent Chair. The depth and extent of her commitment is all the more remarkable in the context of the potential risk it could represent to her thriving research career. The level of support for her consideration for this award is clearly underscored by the sheer number of individual faculty members within the Department who have independently approached this senator to both recommend and endorse her nomination. During her tenure as interim Chair, Dr. Walter has instituted a formal dual faceted effort within the Department to mentor junior faculty. The first is the appointment of members of the senior faculty as one-on-one mentors for junior faculty members. The second is the opportunity each year for junior faculty to have his/her curriculum vitae reviewed by the Promotion, Tenure and Appointments Committee within the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology (C&SB). It is important to note that this mentoring process is provided not only for full time members of the C&SB faculty but also for junior faculty from other departments that have cross appointments in C&SB. In addition, Dr. Walter has been very supportive in dealing with graduate student problems. Her immediate response is always “what can I do to help”. Dr. Sue Naylor, Chair of the Committee on Graduate Studies in C&SB and who incidentally is one of the nominators for Dr. Walter to receive this award, describes Dr. Walter as the “ultimate facilitator”. Remarkably in view of her many other duties, Dr. Walter routinely manages to attend the monthly meetings of the Committee on Graduate Studies and endeavors, whenever possible, to provide departmental resources to support graduate student-related activities. As but one example, Dr. Walter was intimately involved in the development of the Barbara Bowman Award within the Department in order to both honor our former Chair and to recognize outstanding students within our graduate program. The first student to receive this award was so recognized at the departmental retreat just last fall. The graduate programs in the Health Science Center are currently evolving into an integrated program with multiple new tracks. At least initially, four of these tracks will be coordinated from within the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology. When it was doubtful whether a leader could be identified for the genetics track, Dr. Walter stepped to the forefront and assumed that additional responsibility.

This commitment merely reconfirms one of Dr. Walter's great strengths, i.e., her "can do" attitude. Shortly after Dr. Walter assumed the job of interim Chair, she had occasion to visit the morgue/prep facility which the Department utilizes to prepare and store bodies for use in the medical and dental gross anatomy courses. She was so taken aback by how outdated the facility was that she made it one of her priorities to upgrade and remodel the facility. Consultations are currently underway with an outside firm in order to accomplish goal. In addition, Dr. Walter was instrumental in obtaining funds from the University for remodeling space in the anatomy teaching area to accommodate the Allied Health courses in anatomy and also to at least temporarily deal with the overflow which has resulted from the increased enrollment in the medical gross anatomy course. It is not widely appreciated within the Department that Dr. Walter has also been very active and supportive of our teaching faculty who provide instruction in anatomy to the professional schools within the Health Science Center. Even though they play a major role in the education of future health professionals, it has been literally more than three decades since any of them has been put up for promotion beyond the rank of associate professor. This is true even though these faculty members have been the recipients of multiple teaching awards from the institution as well as several graduating medical school classes, the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation and recently the University Of Texas Academy Of Health Science Education. Further, some of this faculty has national recognition for their work on the National Board of Medical Examiners. It is highly gratifying that Dr. Walter has recognized the unfairness of this situation and has initiated an effort to mentor these faculty members, and just this year one has forwarded for consideration for promotion to Professor. In summary, Dr. Christi Walter has provided unselfish, devoted and exceptionally able service as interim Chair of the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology. During her short tenure she has implemented a number of long-over-due changes which have contributed immensely to a general uplifting of the morale with the Department. She has been able to accomplish this in large part due to her inherent sense of fairness, can do attitude and exceptional attention to detail. She is one of those truly exceptional people who seem inherently to know the right thing to do. The level of esteem with which she is held by her faculty is reflected in no better way than by the persistent urging that she has received to seek the position of permanent Chair.

University Topics: Updates

Dr. Robert Kaminski, Assistant VP for Academic Administration

1) Allied Health (from Dr. Harrington)

The upcoming Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for November 1, 2007. It will be open from 8:00 am to 1:30 pm on that day and will be mostly held in the foyer of the auditorium and the Administrative/Academic Building. There will be many screenings, services and educational programs offered by HSC faculty and staff, as well as some of the major non-profit agencies with whom the University partners.

2) Nursing School (from Dr. Froman)

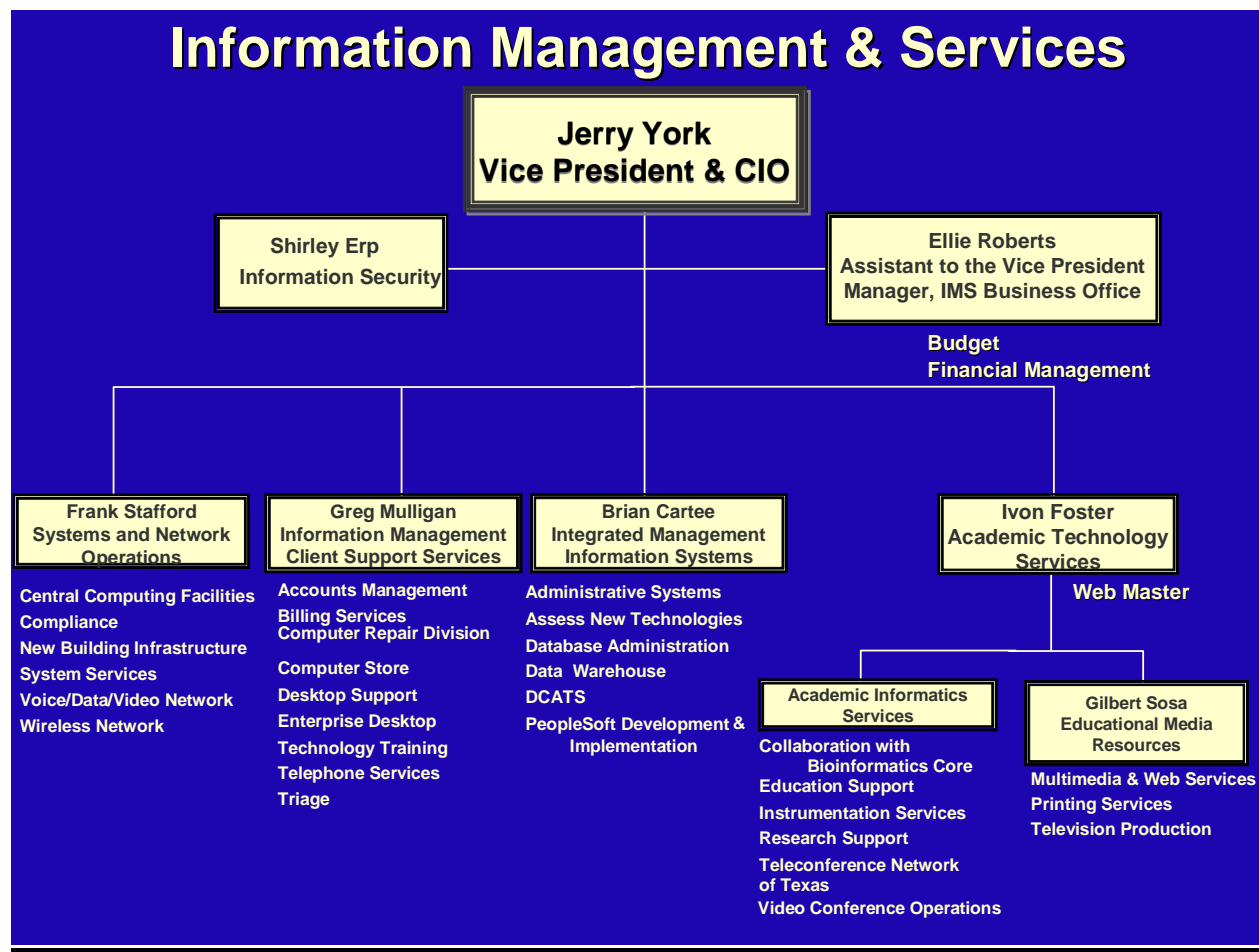
We will be welcoming a new associate dean for undergraduate studies, Dr. Suzanne Yarborough, as of Oct. 8th, 2007. Dr. Yarborough will be returning to the SON (she

was here previously as a faculty member) from Excelsior University in Albany NY. She was an associate dean there of a very large, on-line external Nursing degree program. Until she arrives, Dr. Nancy Girard will be serving as interim associate dean for undergraduate studies. Dr. Jill Hayes has retired as associate dean for students. We are extremely fortunate that Dr. Linda Porter-Wenzlaff has agreed to serve as interim associate dean in that position through the end of the Spring 2008 semester. Dr. Carol Reineck has taken over as the chair of the Acute Nursing Care department after the (delayed) retirement of Dr. Nancy Girard from that position. Dr. Reineck is an associate professor in the department and knows the department very well from her capacity in that role for a number of years.

Restructuring; Office of VP/Chief Information Officer:

Mr. Jerry York, VP & Chief Information Officer
 Dr. Ivon Foster, Asst. VP for Academic Technology Services

Mr. York and Dr. Ivon Foster discussed this schematic that outlines the changes in Information Management and Services.



Mr. York also proposed a new IMS Students Technology Fee.

- \$200/year central student technology fee

- In addition to current school fees
- ½ for educational infrastructure - governance
 - Classroom media technology refresh & maintenance
 - Blackboard/WebCT
 - Email & network/wireless connectivity
 - Other new student-related services
- ½ for underfunded IMS student-related services

Senate Committee Appointments

Dr. Krolick presented the current committee appointments for Senate affirmation.

Academic Affairs Committee

Oversight: This committee is concerned with issues of academic environment, such as policies regarding recruitment of chairs and new faculty, endowed chairs, faculty workloads, evaluation of administration, and long range academic planning (such as the SACS review). The goal is to maintain a high quality academic environment for all faculty and students, including the quality of the curricula and the student bodies of each of the schools.

Membership: James Evans, Allied Health (Chair)
 Peter Gakunga, Dental
 Keith Krolick, Graduate
 Sally Combest and Krista Bowers, Medical
 Rebecca Garcia-Michels, Nursing

Scholarly Activities and Faculty Service Committee

Oversight: Monitor the planning, conduct and evaluation of basic and clinical research, and other scholarly pursuits including the allocation of space, facilities, service, intramural support and collaboration. Monitor research, laboratory and administrative services provided by faculty to the University.

Membership: David Vines, Allied Health
 Ronald Verrett, Dental
 William Morgan, Graduate
 Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal (Chair) and To Be Named, Medical
 Catherine Robichaux, Nursing

Faculty Governance

Oversight: Governance and institutional budget issues of the University and its faculty, and to foster links of communication between the faculty and the administration. Faculty grievances including review of existing grievance procedures.

Membership: Heather Braden, Allied Health
Barry Norling, Dental
Renee Yew, Graduate
Deborah Baruch-Bienen and J. Christopher Franka, Medical
Mickey Parsons (Chair), Nursing

Faculty Status and Welfare

Oversight: Faculty promotion, tenure and post-tenure review. Mechanisms for the evaluation of faculty and administrators, including all aspects of faculty development and welfare.

Membership: Helen Sorenson, Allied Health
Bennett Amaechi (Chair), Dental
William Clarke, Graduate
Leticia Vargas and Daniel Johnson, Medical
Margaret Brackley, Nursing

Senate Executive Committee

Oversight: The Senate's Executive Committee is composed of the chairs of the other Senate committees including the Committee on Committees, as well as the Senate's Chair-elect, immediate Past-chair, and Parliamentarian. The SEC oversees the activities of the other committees, and deals with issues that are so broad as to not fit the charge of any single committee (such as the institutional strategic plan).

Membership: Keith Krolick, Senate chair
David Vines, COC Chair and chair-elect
Deborah Baruch-Bienen, Senate past-chair
Barry Norling, Parliamentarian
James Evans
Rajeshwar Rao Tekmal
Bennett Amaechi
Mickey Parsons

Additional Discussion

Discussed the need for interested individuals to nominate themselves for the Senate's committee on committees

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.