



FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 23, 2023

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

MEB 3200A & WebEx

FACULTY SENATORS IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Lange, M.D., M.B.A., President, TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member
KoKo Aung, M.D., M.P.H.; Vice President for Faculty Success, TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member
Deborah Clegg, Ph.D., Vice President for Research, TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member
Luisa A. Bowcutt, M.S.N., APRN, CNM, GGHSON
Robert A. Danforth, D.D.S., WLHSDM, Nominating Committee Chair
Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect
Alok Dwivedi, Ph.D., PLFSOM

Huanyu Dou, M.D., FGSBS
Subodh Kumar, Ph.D., FGSBS
Gloria Loera, D.N.P., R.N., NEA-BC, GGHSON
Richard W. McCallum, M.D., Faculty Senate Past-President, PLFSOM
Stormy Monks, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, PLFSOM
Marcos E. Ortega, Ph.D., WLHSDM
Ramadevi Subramani Reddy, Ph.D., FGSBS
Jaclyn Reyes, M.S.N., R.N., CNE, CMSRN, GGHSON
Laura Rodriguez, M.S.N., R.N., GGHSON
Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D., FGSBS

ABSENT FACULTY SENATORS

Todd Parco, D.D.S., M.S.D., WLHSDM

OTHER ATTENDEES

Dale Quest, M.D., PLFSOM
Monica Ramirez, D.N.P., GGHSON
Muhammad Moiz Tahir, M.D., PLFSOM
Sheldon Rao, M.D., PLFSOM
Abhinav Vulisha, M.D., PLFSOM

Cindy Camarillo, Managing Director, Office of Faculty Affairs
Tony Castaneda, Director, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs
Macy McBeth, Unit Manager, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs
Samantha Owen, Senior Analyst, Faculty Recruitment, Office of Faculty Affairs

I. CALL TO ORDER

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

Dr. Abhizith Deoker, PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect, called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M.



II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

The minutes from the January 26, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting were sent to all Faculty Senators for review prior to this meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented by the Faculty Senate.

III. NEW BUSINESS

KoKo Aung, M.D., M.P.H.; Vice President for Faculty Success, TTUHSC El Paso, Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member

Office Transitions Dr. Aung updated the Senate on the transition timelines brought on by the resignation of Dr. Guttman, Faculty Senate President, from the institution. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met Friday, February 16, 2024 to review the Faculty Senate Bylaws in regards to the change in leadership.

- **President Position** Faculty Senate Bylaws, *Section 2.3.2: Mid-term Officer Vacancies* states:
"In the event that the president does not complete his/her term of office, the president-elect will complete the previous president's term and then continue as president for his/her own term."
Because of this stipulation, Dr. Deoker will serve the remainder of Dr. Guttman's presidential term until August 31, 2024 and then continue as the Faculty Senate President for his own full term through August 2025. As of Friday, February 23, 2024, Dr. Deoker is the Faculty Senate President. Under normal circumstance, the newly appointed President is presented with a ceremonial gavel. Due to the unexpected timing, a ceremonial gavel will be presented to Dr. Deoker at a later date.
- **President-Elect Position** Because Dr. Deoker will assume the office of the Faculty Senate President, there is a vacancy in the President-Elect position. In consulting the Bylaws, *Section 2.3.2: Mid-term Officer Vacancies*:
"... In the event that the president-elect does not complete his/her term of office, the Faculty Senate must elect a new member to serve out the remainder of the president-elect's term of office."
The bylaws do not explicitly state the course of action in the event the President-Elect takes over the President's position and leaves his/her own position vacant. Therefore, the Executive Committee agreed to leave this position vacant for the next 6 ½ months with the plan of holding an election for the President-Elect to assume office in September 2024 for the next year.
- **Dental School Faculty Senator** Dr. Guttman's departure also leaves a vacant Faculty Senate seat representing the Hunt School of Dental Medicine. The Nominating Committee will notify the dental school's faculty governance body to organize a special election to fill the mid-term senate vacancy for the remainder of Dr. Guttman's term through August 31, 2024.
- **New President's Remarks** As the newly appointed Faculty Senate President, Dr. Deoker addressed the Senate, highlighting his experience and involvement with the institution. Dr. Deoker presented his vision for the upcoming year in his presidential remarks:
Dr. Deoker highlighted his commitment to creating a collaborative campus environment that fosters the growth of healthcare, teaching, scholarship, and effective university governance. The Faculty Senate plays a vital role in higher education by giving faculty a voice in institutional decision-making through shared governance. Dr. Deoker affirmed he is dedicated to building faculty confidence in faculty



affairs governance and working closely with other senators to address the challenges faced by the faculty in fulfilling their academic responsibilities.

He further pledged to work collaboratively with the faculty to ensure their voices are heard in institutional decision-making and their concerns are addressed. By working together, we can create a more inclusive and vibrant campus community that supports the growth of healthcare, teaching, research, and scholarship.

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. Faculty Resources Committee Update by Marcos Ortega, Ph.D., Faculty Resources Committee Chair

Dr. Ortega reported:

- **Values Based Culture Project** Dr. Ortega provided background about the project and the purpose for the videos. The committee chose to first focus on the value of teamwork, with a scenario of preparing for an accreditation site visit for the first video. The script was approved by the committee and is pending University approval. Dr. Mulla, Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and his staff have been collaborating with the committee and have agreed to produce the video. The committee has an approved budget for standardized patients to act in the video. The committee has selected accountability as the next value, but would like to use the feedback from the teamwork script to help guide the drafting process for accountability.
- **Cost of Living Adjustment** During the January Senate Meeting on January 26, 2024, the committee was tasked by the Senate to further research practices regarding faculty cost of living adjustments. Currently, the committee is in the evaluation phase of this objective. The committee plans to research policies at the institution, within each school, and policies at similar institutions within our region to collect data about how these policies are utilized to determine cost of living adjustments. Dr. Ortega would like to understand the depth of the resources available to the faculty and if these resources are being fully utilized.

Dr. Deoker added that this is a work-in-progress, but we are moving in the right direction.

b. Research Resources Committee Update by Mingtao Zeng, Ph.D., Research Resources Committee Chair

- **Research Mentorship Program** In discussion with Dr. Mulla, Interim Associate Dean in the Office of Faculty Development, the committee learned there are resources regarding mentorship for the faculty in the SOM. Dr. Zeng provided links for the Faculty Mentor Application (https://elpasottuhsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_037XLw8Xnog75Nc) and the Faculty Mentoring Interest Inventory (https://elpasottuhsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8odUfHWD3WWOBPU). There is a need for a Faculty Research Mentorship program that is available for all schools. Dr. Clegg was present at the Research Resources Committee Meeting and shared the Research Portal Website (<https://elpaso.ttuhs.edu/research/portal/default.aspx>) where resources for initiating and conducting research can be found.

Action Item: The Committee recommends that the Office of Research should add a section named "Faculty Research Mentoring Program" on the Research Portal where faculty can submit their request for mentorship. Then, the Office of Research can match the appropriate mentor with the requested faculty.



- **Research Symposium** Dr. Zeng reminded the faculty of the 16th Annual Research Symposium to be held at TTTUHSC El Paso on April 5, 2024. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 1st.
- **Q & A**
 - **Q:** Does the Office of Research have resources to make this happen?
 - **A:** Dr. Clegg confirmed the Office of Research has all of the resources needed to update the website and promote the mentorship program.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Deoker announced that the next Faculty Senate February Meeting will be March 22, 2024 from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in MEB 3200A.

Dr. Deoker stated that the Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee submitted a working proposal for a new Faculty Senate Committee. There will be a joint work session in the next few weeks between the Faculty Senate's Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee, Executive Committee, and Office of General Counsel to refine the proposal and ensure we are complying with the provisions of the new state law and institutional recommendations.

VII. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President

Dr. Deoker opened the meeting up for round table discussion.

- **Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee** Dr. Gloria Loera, Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee Chair added that the working title for the new committee in the works is the Faculty Senate Committee on Excellence, Accessibility, and Well-being. The hope is to present this new committee to the Senators and move on with approval.
- **Research Mentorship** Dr. Rao asked if the links for research resources could be sent out to the faculty members for reference. Dr. Zeng asked Ms. Samantha Owen, Faculty Affairs, to display the Research Portal website on the screen. He illustrated what resources are available and how to navigate the website.
 - Dr. Reddy asked who will be maintaining the program resources and the information on the webpage. It was clarified this site is maintained by the Office of Research.
 - Dr. Aung stated that, based on his conversations with Dr. Mulla, there are mentors without mentees and we do not have any mentees that are unpaired at this time. He added that this information was presented in the Faculty Development Resources Newsletter last fall. Dr. Clegg confirmed this.
 - Dr. Clegg added that we will discuss the Research Mentorship Program in greater detail at the Research Symposium in April.



VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Abhizith Deoker, M.D., PLFSOM, Faculty Senate President-Elect

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "AD", written over a horizontal line.

Abhizith Deoker, M.D.

Faculty Senate President 2023-2024

A handwritten date "4/26/2024" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date