Faculty Council Newsletter

October 2016

President’s Update-Starting the LCME preparations

As your Faculty Council President, I am privileged, along with Drs. Ebert and Fernandez-Valle, to attend the Enterprise and Executive Faculty Meetings and represent the faculty perspective. The COM is starting to gear up for the LCME site visit for re-accreditation which will occur in October 2017. It takes COM over a year of intensive preparation to provide the LCME with the data most reflective of our excellent program. Many of us will be serving on self-study committees to evaluate the education program resources, institutional setting, faculty and medical student resources and working environment, etc. Thanks in advance to everyone from all the departments serving on these committees. In order to help provide information about the faculty working environment, you will be receiving a survey developed with the support of the faculty council. All submissions are anonymous and will be available for viewing by the LCME. This is an excellent opportunity to highlight positive opportunities you have benefited from here, as well as constructive suggestions for improvement.

COM Faculty Council news:

We are trying to arrange a guest speaker on mentoring, probably for the early spring.

The COM Grievance Policy is under review by the UCF legal office.

Update from Steve Lambert (Senator) and the Faculty Senate Meeting 10/20:

The senate heard from Dr. German during the provost's report regarding the new teaching hospital. Dr. German discussed the need for a teaching hospital and the mechanism by which HCA was chosen as our partner for this undertaking. Dr. German also discussed how the hospital would be staffed without incurring extra costs for the University.

The senate voted on 10 resolutions raised last month. Most of these involved changes in the senate bylaws regarding various committees that fall under its purview. All resolutions were passed, many without extensive discussion. The only ones with discussion involved:

Governance in Academic units. (This is a new resolution rather than a change in an existing bylaw. There was extensive discussion over this resolution, including the recommended frequency of faculty meetings for an academic unit and the ability to call an emergency faculty meeting, provided it is supported by 1/3 of the unit faculty).

Appeal of denied resolutions. (There was extensive discussion on this resolution, including an appeal from the provost to vote against the resolution. The resolution gives the faculty senate right of appeal to the board of Trustees, should a resolution from faculty senate be vetoed by either the Provost or the President. Of course if the provost votes against this resolution we have no way to appeal it).

Also in Senate news:

Report from the budget and Administration committee: The committee is examining the new University Budget with respect to how colleges will be funded. Three criteria are being used: i) Workload, ii) Incentive (divided into endowment and incentive awards which will be based on college ‘rankings’ within the University) iii) Strategic. The metric of quality is still evolving and there was some concern expressed that non-STEM colleges might not do well under this plan.

Report from the Personnel Committee: The committee is currently working on: i) A lactation policy (the University doesn’t have one), ii) Questions on a salary study (to be held after talks with the union) iii) Emeritus policy.

Board of Trustees Update

Dr. German will be presenting at the 10/24 meeting the proposal for a public private partnership to develop our UCF Academic Hospital. This is one more important step on the way to seeing a teaching hospital here in Lake Nona. A decision is not expected until the first quarter of 2017.