

Minutes of the June 7, 2022 UF Gainesville COM Faculty Council Meeting (held via Zoom)

Officers Present:

President – Ashley Ghiaseddin
President Elect – Martin Rosenthal
Past President – Albert Robinson, III

Secretary – Paramita Chakrabarty
Treasurer – Eric Jeng

Officers Absent:

Vice President – Sonia Deshmukh Mehta

Department Representatives Present:

Shinichi Someya – Aging & Geriatric Res.
Rene Opavsky – Anatomy & Cell Biology
Matthew Andoniadis – Anesthesiology
Mingyi Xie – Biochem. & Molec. Biology
Ji-Hyun Lee – Biostatistics
Addie Walker – Dermatology
Meredith Thompson – Emergency Medicine
Kelly Gurka – Epidemiology
Ramzi Salloum – Health Outcomes & Bio Informatics
Kiran Lukose – Medicine
Lizi Wu – Molec. Genetics & Microbiology
Ashley Ghiaseddin – Neurological Surgery

Gabriel Bonnell - Neurology
Paramita Chakrabarty – Neuroscience
Robert Egerman – Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ekaterina Lobanova – Ophthalmology
Si Chen – Otolaryngology
Marie Rivera-Zengotita – Pathology
Mike Davis – Pediatrics
Jonathan Bird – Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Erica Dale – Physiology
Mariam Rahmani – Psychiatry
Manuel Arreola – Radiology
Romano DeMarco – Urology

Department Representatives Absent:

Robert Hatch – CHFM
Luis Pulido – Orthopaedics & Rehab.
Petar Breitingner – PA School

Carolyn Geis – Phys Med & Rehabilitation
Steven Swarts – Radiation Oncology
Ryan Thomas – Surgery

Guest Speakers:

Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, M.D., Associate Professor, Interim Division Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UF College of Medicine
Ron Anderson, University of Florida Ombuds

Ex-Officio Member:

Mark Segal, M.D., Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Professional Development, UF College of Medicine

Minutes:

1. President Ashley Ghiaseddin called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.
2. Dr. Manuel Arreola attended today's meeting on behalf of the departmental representative for Radiology.
3. The minutes from the May 2022 meeting were approved.
4. [The Magic of Life's Interconnections: The History of UF COM and Wilmot Gardens](#) - Alice Rhoton-Vlasak, M.D., Associate Professor, Interim Division Chief of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, UF College of Medicine
 - Dr. Alice Rhoton-Vlasak briefly discussed the history of the UF College of Medicine and Wilmot Gardens. Dr. Rhoton's father, Dr. Albert Rhoton, came to the UF COM in 1972 and worked with the Dean to establish the Faculty Council to ensure shared governance in the COM. Dr. Albert Rhoton was also the Founding Chair of the [Department of Neurosurgery](#).
 - Dr. George Harrell was the founding Dean of the UF College of Medicine who established the COM and the College of Nursing in 1956. Dr. Harrell also founded the Pennsylvania State

University's College of Medicine and was the first and only person to serve as founding Dean of two colleges of medicine. Dr. Harrell "Emphasized training doctors to understand and care for the whole patient" and advocated for teaching students in small groups. The [George T. Harrell, M.D., Medical Education Building](#) opened in July of 2015 and serves as a home for medical students and physician assistant students at UF. Dr. Harrell's granddaughter and grandson are current faculty members in the UF COM.

- [Wilmot Botanical Gardens](#) was named for Royal James "Roy" Wilmot, a UF horticulturalist who was the founding member of the American Camellia Society that was established on the UF campus in 1946. After Mr. Wilmot passed-away in 1950 at the age of 52, his friends and colleagues from the United States and abroad donated 300 rare varieties of camellias in his honor to create Wilmot Botanical Gardens. In 2006, after decades of neglect, a small group of volunteers led by C. Craig Tisher, M.D., then Dean of the COM, along with Linda and Bill Luecking, restored the gardens. Dr. Tisher has served as the Director of Wilmot Botanical Gardens since that time. In 2012, the Therapeutic Horticulture Program at Wilmot Gardens was launched, which strives to improve lives through engaging with horticulture. The program has served vulnerable populations with special needs including veterans with spinal cord injury/disease and mental illness, stroke patients, cancer survivors, patients with end-stage renal disease, individuals with movement disorders, and young adults with autism.

5. [University of Florida Office of the Ombuds](#) – Ron Anderson, University of Florida Ombudsman

- The UF Ombuds serves as an informal resource and designated neutral party for students, faculty and staff who may have university-related issues. The Ombuds is impartial and does not disclose confidential communications except when given permission to do so. The only exceptions would be if it involved sexual harassment or a breach of state/federal law.
- Mr. Anderson began serving as Ombuds for College of Medicine faculty on September 1, 2021. He reported that he has had 61 new appointments and 29 follow-up meetings with COM faculty and staff over the past 8 months. This number paralleled or was greater than what Dr. Keith Stone reported last year.
- Dr. Rosenthal suggested having Mr. Anderson attend the Faculty Council meetings quarterly to provide updates.
- To schedule an appointment with the Ombuds, call their office at: #352-392-1308.

6. [Committee Reports:](#)

- [President's Report & Executive Committee Report \(May 2022\)](#) – Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D.
 - There are ongoing Chair searches for the Department of Psychiatry, as well as the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation. There is also an ongoing search for the Associate Dean of Continuing Medical Education.
- [Curriculum Committee Report \(May 2022\)](#) – Meredith Thompson, M.D.
 - Two new faculty members were elected to serve on the Curriculum Committee to replace members who were rotating off.
 - Committee reviewed Program Evaluation and June Assessment Yearly Reports
- [Compensation Committee](#) – Mariam Rahmani, M.D.
 - No updates to report. The committee will meet again next week.
- [Research Task Force](#) – Ekaterina Lobanova, Ph.D.
 - Dr. Lobanova encouraged faculty to complete the IT survey that was sent on May 23, 2022. It should be open for a few more weeks.

- AAMC CFAS – Marie Rivera-Zengotita, M.D.
 - No updates to report.
- Faculty Senate – Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D.
 - No updates to report. Dr. Ghiaseddin will be rotating off of the Faculty Senate, therefore Dr. Mike Davis will provide these reports once the Faculty Senate begins meeting again in the Fall.
- Wellness Task Force – Meredith Thompson, M.D.
 - The Research Task Force provided the criteria that Dr. Thompson requested for the research awards, which will be collated and finalized at the next meeting.
- GatorCare Committee – Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D.
 - There are plans to appoint a Faculty Council member to serve a two-year term on the GatorCare Committee who will begin providing the monthly updates.

7. Old Business:

- The 360 Quadrant Evaluations for Department Chairs were sent to faculty on May 16, 2022 and should be open through June 13, 2022. After the evaluations are completed and the results are collated, Dean Koch will meet with the Chairs during their regularly scheduled one-on-one meetings to discuss the results. UF HR team will meet with the Chairs for a debrief 1-2 months after the evaluations are completed. The Dean and the Officers recommended that the Chairs will share an after-action review with their faculty prior to December regarding three things: what they did well, soft spots, and will discuss common themes that emerged.
- The Information Technology (IT) Survey for Researchers was sent to COM faculty on behalf of the Research Task Force on May 23, 2022 and should be open for a few more weeks. The survey will assess the research-related IT needs or challenges of COM faculty.
- Per a request by the UF Faculty Senate, the COM Faculty Council has formed a joint committee with the COM Office of Faculty Affairs to discuss best practices for hiring of faculty in the College of Medicine. This was recommended by the UF Faculty Senate in response to faculty concerns regarding recent hires. Current practices will be reviewed and the results will be anonymized and shared with the Chairs to encourage feedback and collaboration. The committee will develop 7-10 items to consider when hiring someone, with the goal of providing the COM with a guide/playbook on current hiring. The committee plans to coordinate with Dr. Kevin Clarke and the COM HR team and will rely on them as a resource.
- The Lifetime Achievement Award Committee has been formed to establish guidelines to update and improve the submission process and streamline the voting process for the Lifetime Achievement Awards. The proposed guidelines will be presented to the Faculty Council at the December 2022 meeting.
- There are plans to develop a Faculty Council Committee that will work with Dr. Mark Segal in the Office of Faculty Affairs and Dr. Lisa Merlo Greene in the COM Wellness Office to recommend best practices to support those with disabilities within the COM. This committee will be faculty-focused, but will collaborate with other units in the COM. Those that are interested in serving on this committee can email Dr. Martin Rosenthal (martin.rosenthal@surgery.ufl.edu) or Dr. Ashley Ghiaseddin (ashley.ghiaseddin@neurosurgery.ufl.edu).

8. New business:

- Special presentations
 - The Council presented a plaque to Dr. Albert Robinson in appreciation for his distinguished service and exemplary dedication to the COM Faculty Council from July 2015 – June 2022.
 - The Council also presented a plaque to Dr. Sonia Mehta, in appreciation for her distinguished service and exemplary dedication to the COM Faculty Council from July 2013 – June 2022.
- Handing over the gavel
 - This is the last meeting with Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D. as President; Martin Rosenthal, M.D. will begin the 2022-2023 COM Faculty Council sessions at the July 5 meeting. The Council presented a plaque to Dr. Ashley Ghiaseddin in appreciation for his outstanding leadership and service as President over the last year.

President Martin Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 6:14pm.

Announcements:

- To schedule an appointment with the UFCOM Faculty Ombuds, Ronald L. Anderson, email your request to ombuds@ufl.edu, and simply include your name and contact information. To maintain confidentiality, use email only to schedule appointments. More information about the services provided by the Ombuds can be found at the [Office of the Ombuds](#) website. Ron Anderson can also be reached at (352) 392-1308 or randerson@aa.ufl.edu.
- May was Mental Health Awareness Month. Reach out to several resources offered by UF: [Resilient Gator](#), [Employee Assistance Program](#), [Mental Health Services Access Line](#), [GatorCare's mental health resources](#) and [Talk About It](#).
- Certificate course on Research Integrity and the Responsible Conduct of Research. This online seminar series satisfies the NIH, NSF, and USDA RCR training requirements. Click [here](#) to register.
- At UF Health, we support and stand by our compassionate, hard-working nurses and health care providers and continue to embrace the Just Culture concept of shared accountability. [Here](#) is a case study prepared by our Self-Insurance Program.
- Understanding House Bill 7: https://media.coip.aa.ufl.edu/public_live/hb7/presentation_html5.html
- To expedite clinical data delivery, UF Health's data experts are introducing ready-for-use, UF Institutional Review Board-approved patient record registries to help faculty and staff advance medical knowledge and the delivery of care. To access pre-approved data via these user-friendly self-serve tools, please make a request online at IDR.UFHealth.org.
- Please provide feedback on a survey regarding information technology (IT) needs of your research [here](#).
- Please provide feedback on a survey for creation of the Faculty Mentorship Resource Center and recruitment of mentors [here](#)
- Save the date: State of the College address is set for Sept. 23, 7-8 am. More information to follow.
- Hurricane season is here. Keep current with available resources [here](#)
- Congratulate the 130 members of the University of Florida College of Medicine class of 2022. See event highlights [here](#).

The next Faculty Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 5, 2022 @ 5PM.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Liverman, Administrative Assistant, and edited by Dr. Paramita Chakrabarty and Dr. Martin Rosenthal.