

Minutes of the October 3rd, 2023 - UF Gainesville COM Faculty Council Meeting (held via Zoom)

Officers Present:

President – Erica Dale
President Elect – Michael Haller
Vice President – Erin Vanzant
Secretary – Paramita Chakrabarty
Treasurer – Eric Jeng

Officers Absent:

Past President – Martin Rosenthal

Department Representatives Present:

Rene Opavsky – Anatomy & Cell Biology
Arvin Trippensee – Anesthesiology
Thomas Mareci – Biochem. & Molec. Biology
Dan Rubin – Community Health & Fam Med.
Michael Lavery – Dermatology
Ronnie Ren – Emergency Medicine
Kelly Gurka – Epidemiology
Edward Scott – Molec. Genetics & Microbiology
Gabriel Bonnell – Neurology
Benoit Giasson – Neuroscience
Robert Egerman – Obstetrics & Gynecology
Jonathan Hu – Ophthalmology

Si Chen – Otolaryngology
Jason Fromm – PA School
Yu Yang – Pathology
Michele Lossius – Pediatrics
Jonathan Bird – Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Shawn McGargill – Phys Med & Rehabilitation
Rui Xiao – Physiology & Aging
Matt Daley – Psychiatry
Steven Swarts – Radiation Oncology
Priya Sharma – Radiology
Lisa Spiguel – Surgery
Romano DeMarco – Urology

Department Representatives Absent:

Li Chen – Biostatistics
Ramzi Salloum – Health Outcomes & Bio Informatics

Sherri Kittelson – Medicine
Ashley Ghiaseddin – Neurological Surgery
– Orthopaedics & Rehab.

Guest Speaker:

Laura Eurell, DVM, MS, DACLAM, Attending Veterinarian and Interim Director, UF Animal Care Services

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Ellen Zimmermann, M.D., Associate Dean for Faculty Development, UF College of Medicine

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.
2. The minutes from the September 5th, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Dr. Matt Daley is the new departmental representative for Psychiatry.
4. UF Animal Care Services – Laura Eurell, DVM, MS, DACLAM, Attending Veterinarian and Interim Director, UF Animal Care Services
 - Dr. Eurell is a laboratory animal veterinarian. She has been at UF for almost 13 years and states that the huge diversity in species and types of research at UF, along with the people she has met, have kept her here at UF.
 - Dr. Eurell stated that UF Animal Care Services (ACS) is here to produce exceptional science and facilitate research that investigators are doing at UF. In order to do that, a high-quality animal care program is needed that includes veterinary medicine and regulatory medicine. Dr. Eurell emphasized the importance of the partnership between the ACS veterinarians and staff and the PI partners. They share the same goals and want to create teamwork that is needed to make sure the path towards research is as smooth as possible within the contexts

they have to operate. She stated that communication is key and noted the importance of listening, identifying shared goals, recognizing expertise and experience, sharing knowledge, facilitating, being consistent and being available.

- Dr. Eurell provided the following updates about the ACS program:
 - The animal spaces have ongoing renovations and construction projects.
 - golACUC was a significant hurdle to work into the existing system and help investigators figure out how to navigate. The veterinarians are also learning how to use the system, do the reviews, and navigate that process.
 - There are post-covid staffing-related issues, so figuring out how to provide quality service with limited resources is really important.
 - The ACS will soon receive new operating system software put together by UF Research IT called CARES (Campus Animal Resources, Education and Services). This will replace the current MyACS system. The new system will have more flexibility and more automated processes.
 - A digital signage project will soon be launched in an effort to get information out to the people that are walking through or working in the facilities to look for new ideas or announce upcoming policy changes that could be important to investigators using those spaces.
 - The ACS program will have its accreditation site visit by AAALAC International sometime between January and March of 2024. Once the dates are finalized, they will likely reach-out to different labs to schedule meetings with the site visitors.
- Faculty who may have questions about protocols, animal health welfare, troubleshooting, etc., can submit requests online at: <https://acs.ufl.edu/animal-health-and-welfare/>. For additional information, please email Dr. Eurell at leurell@ufl.edu.

5. New Business:

- A representative from the Faculty Council is needed to take over leadership of the Wellness Task Force. Those interested can email Dr. Dale at: ericadale@ufl.edu.
- The inaugural COM New Faculty Retreat: Resources for Success event was held on September 20, 2023. The event was a huge success and included presentations from leadership, a Resource Fair, and lots of interaction with new faculty. Dr. Dale participated in the event and provided information about the COM Faculty Council.
- A reminder to faculty that the COM Faculty Lounge is not a place for students, so please do not bring students to the lounge for meetings.
- The Senior Associate Dean evaluations have been completed and Dean Koch has met with them to discuss the results. There are plans to have a panel discussion with the Senior Associate Deans at an upcoming Faculty Council meeting to discuss the general themes from their evaluations. They will be invited to attend Faculty Council meetings for check-ins every few months to share what they're working on and how things are going.
- Dr. Jennifer Hunt and Richanne Lamb recently sent an email to the Faculty Council members inviting them to participate in a Focus Group aimed at gathering insights and input for ongoing initiatives related to professional effectiveness and faculty support.

6. Committee Reports:

- President's report and Executive Committee Report – Erica Dale, Ph.D.
 - The UF COM and UF Health will soon welcome the first group of students from Alachua County Public Schools to Project SEARCH, a program for neurodivergent high school students to intern at the hospital to build skills needed to succeed in a competitive workforce. Additional details can be found online at:

- <https://news.drgator.ufl.edu/2023/04/06/project-search-comes-to-college-of-medicine/>.
 - UF COM faculty who recently underwent training in the Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP) are developing a training program to share their expertise with other institutions throughout the region, state and nation. The training program will be housed under the COM Quality and Patient Safety Initiative. Additional details can be found online at: <https://news.drgator.ufl.edu/2023/09/01/uf-medicine-to-create-training-program-for-patient-quality-and-safety/>.
 - UF President Dr. Ben Sasse recently announced the first round of [Strategic Funding Awardees](#). The deadline for sending the second round of funding requests to the UF President's office is October 20, 2023. Dr. Azra Bihorac sent an email to COM faculty on September 29 requesting project proposals for the second round of funding, which should be sent to her office no later than October 9. Dean Koch will make the final selection and will submit a prioritized list to the UF President's office on behalf of the COM.
- AAMC CFAS – Albert Robinson, III, M.D., Meredith Thompson, M.D.
 - No updates to report.
- Committee to Determine Best Practices for Hiring at COM – Ashley Ghiaseddin, M.D.
 - No updates to report.
- Curriculum Committee - Jason Fromm, M.D.
 - The committee is determining how to address a new LCME Competency about self-directed learning. Once the projects and pathways are determined, COM faculty will be asked to join the projects and to work with students over a period of time to provide feedback.
- Faculty Senate
 - No updates to report.
- Hospital Operations Committee – Lisa Spiguel, M.D.
 - The committee is continuing to work on developing a new platform for their meetings. An update should be provided within the next couple of months.
- Research Task Force – Jonathan Bird, Ph.D.
 - No updates to report.
- Wellness Task Force
 - No updates to report. A representative from the Faculty Council is needed to take over leadership of this group. Those interested can email Dr. Dale at: ericadale@ufl.edu.

President Erica Dale adjourned the meeting at 5:56 pm.

Announcements:

- Track the progress of the Dean's initiatives under the seven pillars of the strategic plan [here](#).
- To schedule an appointment with the Ombuds office, call 352-392-1308. Appointments are confidential.
- For resources and tools to thrive, be sure to check out the UFCOM Wellness [website](#)

- Log Into Your Free Electronic Lab Notebook Account at LabArchives through the [SSO](#): Instructions on accessing LabArchives
- Please use the [Well-Being Index](#), a tool designed to help residents, fellows and program leaders navigate mental health needs, and provide feedback [here](#) under the people pillar of the college's strategic plan.
- Help us to recognize your colleagues who excel in this aspect of graduate education by taking part in the 2023-2024 Doctoral Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award program. More information [here](#).
- The COM Leadership Development Program (LDP) is now accepting applications for the 2024 cohort. Nominations or self-nominations are due by 5:00 pm on Friday, October 20th, 2023.
- Biomedical sciences students launch internship program to facilitate post-graduate career opportunities. More information [here](#).
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The next Faculty Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ 5:00pm.

Minutes recorded by Melissa Liverman, Administrative Assistant, and edited by Dr. Paramita Chakrabarty and Dr. Erica Dale.