

Minutes of the December 5th, 2023 - UF Gainesville COM Faculty Council Meeting (held via Zoom)

Officers Present:

President – Erica Dale
President Elect – Michael Haller

Officers Absent:

Past President – Martin Rosenthal
Vice President – Erin Vanzant
Secretary – Paramita Chakrabarty
Treasurer – Eric Jeng

Department Representatives Present:

Rene Opavsky – Anatomy & Cell Biology
Arvin Trippensee – Anesthesiology
Thomas Mareci – Biochem. & Molec. Biology
Li Chen – Biostatistics
Dan Rubin – Community Health & Fam Med.
Michael Lavery – Dermatology
Ronnie Ren – Emergency Medicine
Ramzi Salloum – Health Outcomes & Bio Informatics
Sherri Kittelson – Medicine
Ashley Ghiaseddin – NeuroSurgery
Gabriel Bonnell – Neurology

Benoit Giasson – Neuroscience
Jonathan Hu – Ophthalmology
Matthew Patrick – Orthopaedics & Rehab.
Yu Yang – Pathology
Michele Lossius – Pediatrics
Jonathan Bird – Pharmacology & Therapeutics
Rui Xiao – Physiology & Aging
Matt Daley – Psychiatry
Steven Swarts – Radiation Oncology
Priya Sharma – Radiology
Lisa Spiguel – Surgery
Romano DeMarco – Urology

Department Representatives Absent:

Kelly Gurka – Epidemiology
Edward Scott – Molec. Genetics & Microbiology
Robert Egerman – Obstetrics & Gynecology

Si Chen – Otolaryngology
Jason Fromm – PA School
Shawn McGargill – Phys Med & Rehabilitation

Guest Speaker:

David Nelson, M.D., Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, UF & President, UF Health

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

CFAS Ad-Hoc Member:

Albert Robinson, III, M.D., Associate Professor, Department of Anesthesiology, Chief, Division of Vascular Anesthesiology, Assistant Dean, Office for Diversity & Health Equity

Minutes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm.
2. The minutes from the November 7th, 2023 meeting were approved.
3. Updates on appointment of Interim Dean for COM - David Nelson, M.D., Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, UF & President, UF Health
 - Dr. Nelson discussed the upcoming appointment of the Interim Dean for the College of Medicine. He stated that the two options before launching a national search for Dean are to either appoint a short-term Interim Dean for 4 to 6 months who would continue the activities that are currently underway or to appoint a Dean for a 1 to 2-year term. Dr. Nelson met with President Sasse and the Board of Trustees and provided them with a list of names who would fulfill those pathways and who are active Department Chairs that are deeply involved in the college. President Sasse has interviewed three candidates within the last two weeks. Dr. Nelson recently met with the College Leadership Council to get their input and is meeting with the COM Faculty Council today

to get their input. He will then make a recommendation to President Sasse and their decision should be announced within a couple of weeks.

- Dr. Nelson also met with all of the COM Department Chairs to go through the transition plan. He asked for a detailed document outlining their priorities for the next 3-4 months, which he will share with the Interim Dean. He has also worked with the Senior Associate Deans to identify any immediate issues that need to be addressed.
- Dr. Nelson stated that he expects the future Dean to be a strong academic phenotype because he feels that is the direction the college is headed. He stated that the Interim Dean needs to be someone who has credibility, respectability, can work with the other Department Chairs, and is a Department Chair with a current or recent leadership skillset.
- Dr. Nelson asked the Faculty Council members what unique skill sets or needs they would like to see in the Interim Dean. The following opinions were shared:
 - The individual should uphold the multi-mission and integrated health mission.
 - A strong collaborator and bridge-builder is needed to bring the college and the hospital together.
 - The incoming Interim Dean or Dean needs to be mindful to advertise all of the research done here, apart from the AI realm which is getting top billing now.
 - The incoming Interim Dean or Dean should have a strong financial sense, should be a good communicator and collaborator, and should be innovative to keep academics afloat.

4. Committee Reports:

- President's report and Executive Committee Report – Erica Dale, Ph.D.
 - Dr. Lauren Berkow, a Professor in the COM Department of Anesthesiology who is a current UF Senate committee member, will join future Faculty Council meetings to provide the monthly reports on the UF Senate meetings.
- 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.
 - No updates to report.
- Faculty Senate – Lauren Berkow, M.D.
 - a. An online form is available on the UF Faculty Senate website where faculty can [report administrative burdens](#) to be addressed.
 - The Interim Provost requested that Deans and Department heads assess their centers and close any that have been inactive for a long period of time and/or no longer serve a role or function.
 - Nominations are being accepted through January 24, 2024 for [UF Faculty Senate Committees and Councils](#). Self-nominations and colleague nominations are welcome.
- 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](#) (November 16, 2023 meeting)– Jonathan Bird, Ph.D.
 - Dr. Bird reported that he and Dr. Mark Moehle gave a presentation at the recent STEAM fest (STEM+Arts) at the Perry Center at Santa Fe College to explain how biotechnology is used in their research. The event was very successful and discussions are ongoing to host interns from Santa Fe College in the Spring 2024 semester.
- 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 6:05 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.
- The Faculty Senate Chair invites you to share any comments regarding administrative burden [here](#)
- The call for poster abstract and art submissions for the 14th Annual College of Medicine Celebration of Research at the Exactech Arena at the Stephen P. O'Connell Center on February 12-13, 2024 is open now. More information [here](#).

The next Faculty Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 @ 5:00pm.

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