



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine
Minutes of the February 28, 2011 meeting

Members Present: K. Pritzker (Speaker), C. Turenko, V. Kurdyak, D. McKnight, L. Muharuma, C. Woodland, A. Arulampalam, T. McLaughlin, M. Goldstein, S. Somani, C. Whiteside, H. Carnahan, A. Shachak, L. Chartier, M. Hanson, S. Spadafora, I Witterick, Y. Yunusova, M. Wiley, P. Hamel, I. Zbieranowski, G. Fantus, S. Langlands, A. Martin

Regrets: A. Kirshen, S. Verma, M. Shandling, D. Barber, K. Ritchie, R. Hegele, J. Rosenfield, K. Berg, A. Rachlis, N. Harnett, A. Gheorghita

Call to Order

The Speaker called the meeting to order and noted that there was a quorum.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council

The minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2010 had been previously circulated. The minutes were approved on a motion from L. Muharuma and seconded by A. Martin.

2. Remembrance of Dr. Ernest McCulloch

Dr. James Till remembered Dr. McCulloch as a friend and colleague. In the late 1950s, Dr. McCulloch began studying the transplantation of bone marrow into irradiated mice in order to study the function of bone marrow. Dr. Till volunteered to assist with the use of the radiation facility. This partnership led to discoveries in the functional properties of stem cells. Dr. McCulloch valued his relationship with the University of Toronto and was made a University Professor in 1982. Among his many honours were an appointment as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1988 and an honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Toronto in 2004.

3. Report from the Speaker

The Speaker welcomed the new Vice-Dean, Research and International Relations, Dr. Alison Buchan and Dr. Ian Witterick, the newly appointed Chair of the Education Committee to Council.

4. Reports from the Dean's Office

4.1 Report from the Dean's Office

Dean Whiteside noted that the strategic planning process has begun and that many faculty members will be directly involved in the process. This follows the external review process which will culminate in a response to the reviewers. The results of the external review indicate that the Faculty is one of the top in the world as they felt the U of T educational programs are stellar. The strategic plan will focus on ensuring that all contributions of faculty are being valued and that outputs are being measured. This will assist to ensure that the Faculty is making a mark globally. The Dean is looking forward to the strategic planning process. The Dean also welcomed Dr. Buchan.

4.2 Vice-Dean, Research & International Relations

Dr. Buchan introduced herself indicating that she comes from UBC as the Executive Associate Dean of Research which is a similar position to the Vice-Dean, Research & International Relations. She has been with U of T for 6 weeks. Dr. Buchan has noted that she is looking forward to strategic planning process as she has participated in three other processes in the last three years. Dr. Buchan will be conducting an internal review with respect to the grants process and will develop a process to assist with grant writing for the September competition.

4.3 Vice-Deans, Education

Dr. Silver noted that the Vice Deans, Education are the Vice Deans of UME, PGME, CPED and Graduate Education and the group meets every two weeks. The group meets to coordinate, and integrate, overlapping areas with these areas. Last year saw the formation of the Faculty of Medicine Education Council to bring together all the Associate Deans in Education plus all the directors of the Education centres to foster communication between the education portfolios. One of the current areas of interest is to determine if there are activities that overlap that can be centralized to increase efficiencies.

The Education Achievement Day will be held on April 26 at 89 Chestnut with the keynote to be delivered by Reinhart Reithmeier.

Dr. Silver noted that that accreditation for UME will take place in 2012 and PGME and CEPD will take place in 2013.

5. Reports of Standing Committees

5.1 Board of Examiners – Physician Assistant Program

Ms. Sylvia Schippke, Vice President, Academic and Vice Chair of the Board of Examiners (BOE) – Physician Assistant (BScPA) Program, presented the report on behalf of Dr. Ronn Goldberg, the Chair of the BOE, who was unable to attend. Ms. Schippke reminded the Council that the BScPA had its first intake of students in January 2010. Four students were seen by the BOE with two being placed on probation and once being dismissed (this student also unsuccessfully appealed his dismissal).

6. Faculty Council Forum

The Speaker noted that the Forum would be based on the ongoing work of the Faculty Council Revitalization Committee and introduced Dr. Paul Hamel and Dr. Mara Goldstein.

Dr. Hamel indicated that the report presented should be considered an interim report. He noted that the Terms of Reference Faculty Council Revitalization Committee include proposing changes to the by-laws and constitution of the Faculty of Medicine Council. Dr. Hamel identified the members of the Revitalization Committee.

Dr. Hamel noted the long term goals of the Revitalization Committee were to strengthen governance of the Faculty of Medicine through its Governing Council and generate the conditions in which greater democratic participation by the Faculty and students occurs in the Governance of the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Hamel noted that the Faculty of Medicine is an extremely complex organization involving the participation of the students and faculty at many institutions that are separated geographically and that have overlapping but distinct relationships to the Faculty of Medicine and to the University of Toronto. The complexity is further reflected in the apparent menagerie of committees and processes that exist that also influence the overall direction of the Faculty of Medicine. Thus, the oversight of Faculty Council through its committees often appears to be quite limited. More importantly, these structures and processes tend not to involve broad participation of the Faculty and/or students. Dr. Hamel noted that the perception of the Revitalization Committee was that a clearer understanding of how the directions/decisions of the Faculty of Medicine are

determined was needed. The purpose for generating this clarity was to put in place mechanisms that would enhance and, indeed, encourage more vital participation by all members of the Faculty of Medicine in determining its overall directions and enhancing its academic mission.

Information Generation: The Revitalization Committee felt, in collaboration with the Office of the Dean and its various offices, an overall scheme could be generated describing the research and teaching aspects of the Faculty of Medicine as well as all the committees involved in setting directions for these academic activities. This outline will allow Faculty Council to understand the decision-making processes that exist within the Faculty of Medicine. In turn, it will allow us to consider where modifications to these should be considered and/or where closer integration of the activities of various committees should be promoted.

Increased Communication: Central to the participation of the faculty in Faculty Council is the availability of information. The schemes outlined above and the nature of the various deliberations of these committees should be easily accessible. The agenda and supporting documents for meetings should be publicly available prior to meeting so that broad input can be considered and encouraged. The results of these meetings as well as Faculty Council should be reported in Med-email as well as on the Faculty Council website.

Forum on Renewal and Revitalization: In order to consider changes to the Constitution & Bylaws of the Faculty of Medicine and to understand other alterations that the Faculty might wish to have considered, it is proposed that at least one open forum be held in order to deliberate proposed changes and to table additional possible alterations. These will be disseminated among the Faculty of Medicine at least 2 weeks prior to the June 20th meeting.

Revitalization of Faculty Council Meetings: The Revitalization Committee perceives that there has been a number of recent Council meetings where fundamental issues concerning the directions within the Faculty of Medicine have been discussed. It is proposed that this aspect of Faculty Council be enhanced so that critical issues within the Faculty are discussed and debated.

Changes in Practice: We propose that issues and new directions in the Faculty of Medicine be identified early in their processes by Faculty, Deans and Committees and that they be referred to committees promptly. We propose that the Agenda Committee be aware of deliberations of all committees and, at a high level, the Deans' progress with the issues. These changes in practice would allow Faculty Council to function responsibly in considering major issues. By doing so, it would enhance the University's mission for higher education and research while maintaining academic freedoms and protections.

Dr. Goldstein proposed the following changed to the by-laws of Faculty Council:

IV. A.

Decisions on academic policy shall be referred to Council for discussion, advice and approval

CHANGE:

Decisions on academic policy, including those policies affected by agreements with external stakeholders, shall be referred to Council for discussion, advice and approval.

IV. B. i)

Council shall review and approve the content and requirements of the teaching programs and their component courses of study which lead to degrees, diplomas, certificates and credits over which the Faculty has authority and shall monitor the quality and standards of the programs.

CHANGE:

Council shall review and approve the content, requirements and funding of the teaching programs and their component courses of study which lead to degrees, diplomas, certificates, and credits over which the Faculty has authority and shall monitor the quality and standards of the programs.

IV. B. ii)

Council shall review and approve proposals to create or terminate academic departments and units of the faculty.

CHANGE:

Council shall review and approve proposals to create, expand or terminate academic departments and units of the faculty to strengthen governance in the Faculty and to generate better democratic process in the Faculty.

The Speaker thanked Drs Hamel and Goldstein for their presentation.

7. Adjournment.

On a motion from S. Spadafora, seconded by D. McKnight, the meeting was adjourned.