FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES  
September 7, 2011


Also Present: Drs. Charney, Hoff, Morrison, Muller; Ms. Schneier

Dr. Barnett called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting of the Faculty Council were unanimously approved.

II. Faculty Council Update

Dr. Barnett updated the Council:

- Faculty Council Awards Ceremony – The June event was very well received and marks the beginning of a new tradition for the Council.
- Elections – In the new academic year the Council must conduct biannual elections as required in the bylaws. Instructions to departments and institutes from the last election will be obtained as the first step in the new election process. Dr. Barnett noted that although representatives may serve indefinitely, leaders are restricted to a single two-year term.
- Disciplinary Tribunal, Professionalism Committee – no referrals have been made to either group.
- Faculty Resources Committee – Dr. Cederbaum reported:
  - Grant-in-Aid – In light of financial concerns, no enhancements to the program can be made at this time.
  - Information Technology – Recruitment of a new Chief Information Officer and Chief Medical Information Officer are in progress.
  - Day Care – Dr. Masur has formed a committee to explore opportunities for expansion. Dr. Cederbaum is representing the Council on this committee.
  - Faculty Dining Room – Plans for a dedicated space are linked to plans to create a food court in the atrium outside the Annenberg Building; the status of these plans is uncertain at this time.
  - Faculty Health Club – The Council leadership will continue to explore possible options.

The Council offered kudos to Drs. Barnett and Cederbaum for their successful efforts in removing mandatory participation from the new travel policy.

III. Academic Track – Proposed Revisions

Drs. Charney and Morrison presented a proposal to amend the criteria for appointment and promotion in the Academic Track. With the changing landscape of biosciences MSSM is
reaching out to industry experts for cutting-edge technologies and science to support our Strategic Plan goals of diagnosing and treating human disease. Traditional Academic Track criteria do not adequately acknowledge the experience and accomplishments of industry recruits who may not have extramural funding or formal teaching experience, and who frequently do team science that places them in middle authorship positions on publications. These recruits do, however, have records of significant achievements in corporate scientific settings, often with responsibility for large research programs, patents etc. The recruitment of Dr. Eric Schadt and his genomics team exemplify this new type of recruit, as do some recent Pathology recruits. The Academic Track criteria thus must be expanded to accommodate this broader range of talents and achievements of incoming faculty. Tenure will be available to recruits based on their personal records of productivity and promise for continued success.

Dr. Muller remarked that Medical Education is developing a “Science and Medicine” early admission program for undergraduates who are passionate about science, particularly math, computer science and engineering; as a parallel to the Humanities and Medicine Program, Science and Medicine will allow select undergraduates to pursue broad interests in the sciences prior to entering the M.D. program.

Dr. Morrison described Graduate School plans to build the computational biology program between MSSM and NYU’s Courant Institute, with a likely track in genetics/genomics and ultimately a PhD program in computational biology.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the proposed revisions to the Academic Track were unanimously approved, with one abstention.

IV. Faculty Council Composition

Dr. Barnett reported on concerns expressed by the Association of Attending Staff (AAS) that no voluntary faculty currently serve on the Faculty Council. In order to ensure participation by voluntary faculty, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Council agreed to revise the composition:

1. Three voluntary faculty will be elected by the AAS to serve on the Council.
2. The three representatives will all be from different academic departments.
3. The three elected individuals will represent the AAS, not their home departments.

V. Authorship Policy Revisions

Patrick Hof, M.D., Professor of Neuroscience, presented the recommendations an ad hoc committee charged by Dr. Morrison with improving the existing authorship policy. The draft policy defines authorship, addresses the justification and order of authorship, identifies P.I.s as the final decision makers on authorship, and requires that all authors approve the final version of a manuscript.

Postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and faculty all need to be aware of the policy; Dr. Mobbs includes authorship information in his Responsible Conduct of Research presentations.

The Council recommended adding a statement about appropriate next steps for addressing authorship disputes. With this change, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Faculty Council unanimously approved the proposed authorship policy.
VI. Medical Education Committee Revisions

Dr. Muller presented proposed changes to the size, composition and terms of service of three Medical Education committees:

- Executive Curriculum Committee
- Student Promotions Committee
- Admissions Committee

Dr. Muller explained that the changes were designed to ensure that the committees will be of manageable size and that terms lengths are appropriate, particularly when students serve and need to rotate out. He commented on the role of Faculty Council in giving input on replacements when members turnover.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the proposed changes to the three committees were unanimously approved.

VII. Conflicts of Interest in Research Regulations

Ms. Schneier reported that the Public Health Service has adopted more stringent Conflicts of Interest in Research regulations. The most profound change is that the definition of significant financial interests has dropped from $10K to $5K, which will affect the ways in which conflicts are managed and reported. By August 2012, MSSM and other schools must adjust their own policies and procedures to address the new requirements, and must create educational modules for faculty and staff.

There being no further business, Dr. Barnett adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.