FACULTY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 2, 2011


Dr. Barnett called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

I. Discussion with Dean Charney

Dr. Barnett welcomed Dr. Charney to the meeting, and presented concerns about benefits and resources that were identified in a recent survey of Faculty Council representatives:

- **Tax-Sheltered Annuity Program** – Are enhancements possible, e.g., using total compensation rather than base salary alone for contribution calculations? Dr. Charney requested specific questions in writing and he will then obtain answers.

- **Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Program** - Are enhancements possible, e.g., higher award amounts, additional grants to Associate Professors or participation in a consortium with other universities that might generate tuition relief? Dr. Charney responded that Human Resources has provided him with information on the current utilization and cost of the GIA program, as well as on tuition assistance programs at other schools. He will use this information to consider possible opportunities for improvement of the MSSM program. Dr. Charney noted that GIA does not play a significant role in faculty recruitment or retention; this may be because Mount Sinai offers faculty salaries that are more generous than many other schools, so that tuition assistance is a relatively minor factor in the decision to come to or remain at Mount Sinai.

- **Faculty Gym** – Dr. Charney reported that a gym is planned for the residential tower attached to the new Center for Science and Medicine (CSM). The current proposal is for paid memberships, but details and limitations need to be explored. Priority access will be given to tower residents.

- **Faculty Dining Room** – Dr. Charney explained that the old Faculty Club was closed because of low volume and the related income loss. He reported that the current GP cafeteria will be replaced by an ambulatory surgery center, and a proposal is under development to develop a food court in the Annenberg west area and the GP atrium; a designated faculty seating area is being considered as part of the plan.

- **Parking** – The CSM residential tower will contain a garage, and total spaces will exceed the anticipated demand by building residents. In addition, a valet parking program will be initiated for the enlarged cancer program planned for CSM. Dr. Charney offered to get more details for the Council on the parking plans.

Other issues discussed with Dr. Charney:

- **Access to New Buildings** – Dr. Charney stated that there will be a bridge (tunnel?) connecting CSM to GP. The Center for Advanced Medicine will continue to be accessible only through street access.

- **Annenberg Operating Rooms** – In response to questions about upgrades, especially on the 6th floor, Dr. Charney agreed to get information about capital improvement plans.
- **Non-Cancer Infusion Center** – In response to a question about creating additional infusion centers, Dr. Charney recommended that faculty present a request to the FPA Executive Committee.

Dr. Charney reported:
- Dubin Breast Center – Will open in March 2011, and will be accessible from 5th Avenue and from within Mount Sinai.
- Commencement – New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is the May 2011 MSSM commencement speaker. An impressive list of honorary degree recipients is planned, including: Nancy Goodman Brinker (the sister of Susan Komen and founder and CEO of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation); Dr. William Foege, a pivotal figure in efforts to eradicate smallpox; Dr. LeRoy Hood, a pioneering biologist who was part of the initial Human Genome Project; and Dr. Jonathan Rothberg, a leader in human genome sequencing.

At the conclusion of this discussion, Dr. Charney departed.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the December x, 2010 meeting of the Faculty Council were unanimously approved.

**III. Travel Policy**

The Council discussed the recent requirement that all transportation be booked through Axiom Travel. The advantage is that users will no longer have to pay out-of-pocket and wait for reimbursement. The disadvantage is that it can be time-consuming when users find cheaper flights on-line and then need to provide documentation to Axiom to match those fares. Additional concerns were voiced about the $32/transaction fee charged by Axiom. Dr. Evans agreed on behalf of the Faculty Resources Committee to identify and then meet with the individual who oversees the program to learn more about the rationale for the policy and its strengths and weaknesses.

**IV. Royalty Distribution Formula**

Representatives discussed Dr. Charney’s plan to modify the royalty distribution formula in two ways: 1) the portion of income previously allocated to the inventor’s department will now go directly to the School to enable the Dean to make strategic, institution-wide determinations regarding the optimal use of funds; and 2) While the inventor’s personal share will remain the same, his/her research program will now receive a 5% allocation of royalty income. Members expressed concern about the loss of income for departments, and agreed to give further consideration to this issue.

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