

**Faculty Council of the School of Public Health and Health Professions
Minutes of the Faculty Council Meeting (Thursday, October 16, 2008)**

Members present: Awad, Homish, Kiviniemi, Ram, Rudra, Temple, Yu, White

Absent: Lenker, Wrisley

1. Lorraine Collins, Associate Dean for Research, attended the meeting. She is hoping to build research productivity, research infrastructure, and research mentoring within the school.
 - a. Lesley Cephas has left her position within the Research Administrative Services (RAS). She continues to assist on a voluntary basis to help with the transition. The posting for her replacement is ready to go and Lorraine has names of people that are known to Lesley and others who might be appropriate for the position. But, due to the hiring freeze, the job cannot be posted at present
 - b. It would help to copy Lorraine on all research-related messages, particularly with Sponsored Projects Services, especially during the absence of the head of RAS.
 - c. Lorraine will work on developing a seminar series on obtaining funding from sources other than NIH, likely to occur during the beginning of 2009
 - d. Lorraine would like to see the School do a better job of research mentoring
 - i. Mentoring could happen from faculty outside of the department, and possibly outside of the school.
 - ii. She envisions a Research Mentoring Committee comprised of faculty who would be available to work with anyone that wants to work with them.
 - iii. Jenn Temple described an intramural grant writing course at NIH that involved junior and senior investigators, with junior investigators sharing grants under development for feedback.
 - iv. Other topics that could be addressed include "how to run a grant", "staying on track for writing publications"
 - v. The Faculty Council can work to support each other, particularly since so many of us are pre-tenure faculty, and can suggest names for the mentoring committee
 - e. Lorraine will also work on a seminar series regarding K awards from NIH
 - f. Lorraine supports the town hall meeting idea to discuss with faculty about how to promote research success. She will send suggested dates/times to Pavani.

2. The CEPH mock site visit took place on October 6 and 7, 2008.
 - a. Appended are questions raised during the faculty sessions with the visitors.
 - b. Overall, it seemed that we need to sell ourselves better. Governance and the representation of programs were raised. The visits were pleased about the ongoing approach to "getting connected" within the School.
 - c. There will likely be a request for additional information on service. Faculty should respond with any service activities at all that they have been interested in.
 - d. The Faculty Council can try to ensure that faculty are informed about what questions will be asked during the site visit, scheduled for May 4-6, 2009.
 - e. Also, the Faculty Council can try to rally faculty to continue to respond to the inevitable ongoing requests for information that will trickle in over the next 6-9 months.
 - f. All faculty should plan to be around during the site visit since they could be called upon, even at the last minute, to meet with site visitors.

3. Fall events
 - a. Happy hour at the Steer: Carole is organizing a happy hour at the Steer on Wednesday, October 22nd at 5 pm. She will send a reminder on Monday, October 20th.
 - b. Coffee social: we have a \$250 budget for one coffee social this fall (same budget for one in the spring). Jenn and Pavani will organize the one for this fall, tentatively to be held on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving (Nov 25) at 3 pm.

- c. Annual meeting for new and pre-tenure faculty: we discussed when this should be held. The consensus seemed to be that we would re-assess the timing after the permanent dean's name has been announced. That announcement is expected within 2 weeks. If it seems that it will be many months before the new dean is in place then, perhaps, the meeting could be scheduled sooner than later in order to talk with new faculty, in particular.

4. Innovative thinking

- a. Pavani raised the idea of developing a program to foster innovative thinking among faculty and students. This idea originated from Art Goshin, on the Dean's Advisory Council. One concrete way of achieving this is to have two or three faculty with overlapping research interests lead a group of 2 to 3 students to work on a major public health or clinical service problem, research question, or program. This could be a semester-long endeavor. It would be well served to have a brand, an umbrella under which such a program would operate.
- b. Pros
 - i. Potential for concrete product that would be beneficial to the research goals of the faculty involved
 - ii. Promotion of multi-disciplinary thinking
 - iii. Engagement of dynamic students in thinking about large-scale public health or clinical service problems or issues
- c. Cons
 - i. Likely, would be mostly undertaken by pre-tenure faculty who already face major demands on their time
 - ii. While it sounds interesting, the time invested by the faculty may not pay off sufficiently in terms of the quality/ utility of the output
 - iii. Would need to identify appropriate entity to administer such a program. Even if it's not the same faculty doing this each semester or each year, would want to keep a rotating list of faculty who would do this. If there's any money associated with it, would need a process for figuring out application and selection processes.
- d. Agreed to consider this idea and discuss again at next meeting.

e. Miscellaneous items

- i. We shall consider inviting Dale Fish, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, to the next meeting. He may not have time for this right now, given the CEPH self-study deadline of November 26th.
- ii. Scott White mentioned that the Executive Committee has put together a promotion and tenure document that is making its way through the offices of the Vice-Provost for Faculty Affairs and the Provost
- iii. There was a suggestion from an RS faculty member to advocate for having a Dean's List at the School level. Many of us weren't sure if this was a possibility for graduate students or not.
- iv. It would be nice to do a more formal welcome and send-off of faculty and staff that join us or leave us.

5. The next Faculty Council meeting will be held on Thursday, November 6th from 2 to 3 pm. Pavani will arrange for Rm 240 Farber for future meetings of the Faculty Council.