

Stony Brook School of Medicine
Faculty Senate Meeting
June 14th, 2005

Dr. Cedric Priebe (Presiding)
Dr. Scott Johnson (Recording)
Attendance: Please see attendance roster

Dr. Priebe called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

I. Review of minutes of Meeting of 4/26/05:

Dr. Johnson

- Minutes of the April 26th meeting were accepted as written.

II. Presidential Address concerning Dean Search

President Kenny

- President Kenny thanked Dr. Priebe and the Faculty Senate for the opportunity to address the Senate.
- President Kenny has sent memos to the faculty informing them of her intention to appoint an acting or interim Dean, and that the search process has been initiated. She is looking for a person to work for approx. 2-3 years during the transition to a new permanent Dean.
- She stated that the search process necessary to find a new permanent Dean would be another lengthy process, and we would need to start from scratch.
- President Kenny then stated that if we find that the new interim Dean is the appropriate person to lead the SOM into the future, then she would consider giving this person permanent Dean status. She then reminded the Senate that the permanent Dean position serves at the pleasure of the President.
- Although President Kenny stated it is not appropriate to discuss individual candidates in this forum, she welcomed emails from the faculty on any issues, including specific candidates.
- At present, there have been several candidates that have come to Stony Brook and several potential candidates are interested if the position becomes permanent. The expected start date would be this fall.
- President Kenny has interviewed Dr. Roberta Hines (Chair of Anesthesia at Yale) and Dr. Richard Besdine (Gerontologist at Brown, who has served as the Acting Dean at Brown; NB: the Acting Dean cannot subsequently serve as the permanent Dean). Dr. Russell Joffe (presently Dean UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School) is due to come to Stony Brook next week
- Dr. Simon asked that when a Dean candidate declines to pursue the candidacy at Stony Brook, that we inquire about what it was that discouraged them about the position. This will allow us to learn our deficiencies from these candidates.
- President Kenny stated that it is usually a matter of the candidate's personal life rather than any specific deficiency here at Stony Brook. Although identified problems with our institution have been the practice plan and the financial status of the SOM and its lack of resources, these issues have never been the reason for declining candidacy (as elicited in exit interviews).
- It was stated that the institution's financial issues are real and unfortunately very important. President Kenny was asked if she had considered a distinguished Dean from outside the institution to review our institution. Dr. Bill Peck (former Dean of Washington University School of Medicine and new director of Washington University's Center for Health Policy) was cited as an example.
- President Kenny stated that she has not considered this concept, but she said it seems like a good idea and a worthwhile pursuit.

- Harvard, Northwestern, and University of Alabama have been fined for not protecting their junior faculty. It was asked whether anything would be done to nurture our junior faculty.
- President Kenny stated she has not done anything specific, although she is concerned that the junior faculty's careers should be fostered. President Kenny stated that this should be addressed by the SOM administration, and felt that this would be an issue to discuss with the Dean candidates.
- President Kenny stated that she is presently working with a search firm to find an interim Dean, not the search committee formed for and charged with the prior Dean search. She has talked with Dr. Leske to in effort to get the prior search committee involved if necessary. The search firm is familiar with the people in the field.
- Dr. Schiavone asked President Kenny for her insights on the consultant's recommendations, and stated that there exists some ambiguity as to whether the consultant is a candidate himself or herself.
- President Kenny stated that the consultant was never a candidate for the position, and that the consultant is working on finding suitable candidates for us.
- Dr. Priebe inquired whether there has been any pursuit of some aspects of the hospital, i.e. pursuit of a dedicated children's hospital or psychiatric hospital.
- President Kenny responded that \$300 million has been allocated to the expansion of the hospital. The creation of a doctor's building is important (to replace Tech park), as there is a need for geographical proximity of outpatient offices to the hospital.
- The rationale of choosing to search for an interim Dean, as opposed to a permanent Dean was questioned.
- President Kenny responded that a permanent Dean search utilizes resources and is time intensive. We've been in search mode for too long, and the search committee was disbanded when the last of the previous candidates withdrew. She would like this committee to reconvene if she considers that an Acting Dean candidate is also a potentially strong candidate for permanent Dean status. She stated we have some flexibility now, as an Interim Dean can be appointed by a different administrative process than what is necessary to appoint a permanent Dean.
- President Kenny also stated that she would like the faculty to communicate with her regarding what the faculty expectations are for a Dean candidate. She looks forward to getting the faculty's input.
- Dr. Simon stated that the "rank and file" faculty, not just the department chairs and administrators, would appreciate the opportunity to meet with the Dean candidates and have input in the selection process.
- President Kenny agreed and asked how it should be structured to get the faculty to meet with the Dean candidates. President Kenny has also asked the candidates to talk with the junior faculty as well, but this has not happened.
- It was pointed out that the Faculty Senate represents the entire faculty of the SOM irrespective for departmental affiliation.
- Dr. R. Parker stated that a forum such as the one today (President Kenny addressing the Senate) would be interesting for the candidate, although it may be intimidating for a candidate to address the Senate after only one visit to the campus. He suggested an open forum to allow the faculty to meet with the Dean candidates once they have been here two or three times prior. This should allow the candidates enough time to understand the issues that are germane to our institution.
- The 2 different paradigms of Acting Dean and Permanent Dean were discussed. How do we approach candidates when we do not know whether they are interim or permanent candidates?
 - The goal of an Acting Dean's tenure was defined as approximately 2-3 years
 - A permanent Dean would define the image of the institution and direct the future path of the institution.

- President Kenny stated that we'd rather not have a "caretaker" as an Interim Dean, but rather a Dean with an agenda to move the SOM ahead in the future.
- President Kenny stated that a model for an Interim Dean exists in the context of University President; you may find someone who has served and retired and now has reconsidered retirement and is willing to work for 2-3 years as a challenging endeavor.
- A comment was made that it would be hard to imagine an endowed chair at Yale would come here for 2-3 years. President Kenny agreed and stated that this would be a candidate who would likely be interested in a permanent Dean position.
- It was questioned whether President Kenny has looked internally for candidates. She will look at both interim and permanent candidates both within and outside of the institution.

III. Dean's Report

Dr. Edelman

- Dean Edelman was optimistic that we will be able to recruit a new Dean, as the SOM has had a very good year and is moving towards the future.
- Dean Edelman stated that the SOM has been fully accredited for 5 more years, as we have received an excellent review by the LCGME. He credits a lot of hard work by Peter Williams and Fred Schiavone.
- Dean Edelman delineated several of the educational objectives that have been accomplished.
- Competencies have been built into courses, with substantial progress being made.
- New staff in the Dean's office has been hired to expedite the process for improvement.
- Capital funding for the new simulation center has been approved
- Strong changes to the curriculum have been made after a comprehensive review of the current curriculum was performed.
- The preclinical years are not progressing and improving as rapidly as other parts of the curriculum; this needs to be analyzed closely.
 - Part 1 Board scores are somewhat below the national average.
 - Part 2 Board scores are somewhat above the national average.
- Dean Edelman then spoke of the SOM research achievements.
- Research grants are up 11% from last year, which is very good.
- Strong new people have been recruited and will help lead the SOM into a highly productive era.
- Far less money is available from the NIH, although the long-term consequences of this are not yet clear. The NIH is very serious about translational research, and this needs to be an area of our SOM's focus. We need to try to build clinical research infrastructure around GCRCs.
- This bodes well for us; we already have a strong GCRC and we remain poised to move forward.
- We have received a K30 award, which will give us funds to train young faculty to do research.
- Our SOM's concept of the Department of Biomedical Research is a successful model of translational research.
- Dean Edelman then spoke of clinical enterprises, for which we have done very well.
- We have recruited 20 new FT faculty last year, far more than in past years. Recruitment was done with a focus on a strategic plan for excellence. For example, a new Medical Oncology chief was recruited for the new cancer center. A new building for the cancer center is being built. The center needs to be run as a truly integrated and comprehensive cancer center.

- Dean Edelman agrees with President Kenny on the need for a dedicated doctor's building, as outpatient offices need to be here in campus. This is a formidable challenge however, as current leases at Tech Park range from 2-10 years. This initiative will require cooperation between the University and the hospital.
- Dean Edelman reported that the SOM is stable with some reserves; the SOM is not wealthy, and the State budget remains a potential windfall. We need to better support the junior faculty who are translational researchers.
- All things considered, the SOM is in good shape. There were no specific questions for Dean Edelman

IV. Executive Committee Interviews with Dean candidates

Dr. Priebe

Dr. Priebe reported that the Senate EC has met with Dean candidates Dr. Hines and Dr. Besdine and will meet Dr. Joffe when he comes to campus.

V. Approval of Faculty Senators for 2005-2007

Dr. Priebe

- Dr. Priebe reported that several departments have yet to declare who their Senate representatives will be, despite the efforts of Dr. Priebe to contact the Chairs.
- Missing from: Microbiology/Molecular Genetics- 3 Senators of 5 Total
Neurobiology/Behavior- 1 Senator
Pharmacology- 5 Senators
Physiology/Biophysics- 6 Senators
Medicine- 14 Senators
Ophthalmology- 1 Senator
Psychiatry/Behavioral Science- 2 of 6 Total
Radiology- 5 Senators
- Dr. Priebe asked that the departments who have yet to submit their nominees for membership please do so, as soon as possible. The first meeting of the new Senators will be October 25th, 2005.

VI. Approval of Committee members

Dr. Priebe

- Dr. Priebe stated that several committees have not yet submitted their membership list. Dr. Priebe asked that they respond to him via email.
- The curriculum committee has more nominated people than they have positions open, which requires a vote of the Senate to elect the committee members.
- An email ballot has been distributed to the Faculty Senate membership. Presently 17 votes have been submitted to Dr. Priebe (Dr. Williams has received some as well); 30 voters are required to submit their ballots to make the election official.
- There is now a revised ballot that has been distributed; please use this revised ballot to cast your vote, whether you have voted using the previous ballot or you have not yet voted.
- Dr. Tonneson raised a concern that the email balloting process was not anonymous.
- Dr. Williams responded that the election process is not addressed in the bylaws, and the email balloting process was utilized, as it is the easiest method to carry out the vote. He concurred that this process would unlikely pass institutional muster for a secret election. Dr. Williams suggested a change in the bylaws or a more rigorous process to keep the election anonymous.
- Dr. Priebe expressed concern that it is a laborious process to get the faculty to vote and to do so correctly.
- Dr. Williams suggested that the IT department could possibly set-up a web-based anonymous ballot system, requiring a sign-in ID.
- Dr. Fochtmann stated that it was hard to choose among the candidates because all were so capable, although she did not know who else was on the curriculum

committee. Dr. Williams responded that all committee members are listed on the web.

- Dr. Tonneson suggested that perhaps each candidate could write a small paragraph describing themselves, their ideas and their platforms.
- Dr. Priebe will bring these issues to the Executive committee for further discussion.
- Dr. Sussman questioned what the rules were regarding serving on committees. It was explained that it is usually a 3-year term on the curriculum committee. Although the bylaws state that one can serve 2 consecutive terms on a committee, ordinarily active committee members serve longer.
- Dr. Priebe then asked the Senate to approve the new committee members:
Executive Committee – Dr. Harris Cohen
Academic Standing – Dr. Sidonie Morrison
Dr. Henry Thode
APT
Curriculum – Election in Progress
RAAP – Dr. Elaine Gould
Student Admissions
Student Affairs – Dr. Rahman Pourmand
- The new committee members were approved unanimously.

VII. Nominations for President and Secretary

Dr. Priebe

- Dr. Priebe asked the Senate to approve the nomination for President for himself and the nomination for the position of secretary for Dr. Scott Johnson.
- As there was no dissention and no one else nominated, the nominations were accepted.

VIII. Venue for next Faculty Senate meeting on 10/25/05

Dr. Priebe

- Dr. Priebe asked the Senate whether there was any interest in meeting at Sunwood or the Wang center for our first meeting of the academic year in October. It would allow an opportunity to mix and mingle socially and encourage a more active and energized sense of community.
- Some faculty have expressed concern that it would be difficult to attend a meeting offsite, given most faculty's busy schedules.

IX. New Business

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be on **Tuesday October 25th at 5pm.**
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.