

HIGHLIGHTS - FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

September 14, 2009

Dean's Update: Dean Thienhaus reported that:

Nevada Cancer Institute is expanding in GME programs and will get involved in cancer care at UMC and will locate very soon to a hospital in Henderson, St. Rose. Both UMC and the VA will be much more invested in our GME expansion in the future.

LCME: This site visit will occur in approximately five weeks.

Dean's Search: This will be a combined position of Dean of Medicine and V.P. of Health Sciences. Dr. Thienhaus is very seriously considering applying for this position.

Assoc. Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs Search: Should finally wrap up at the end of the month.

Assoc. Dean of Medical Education Search: Is under way.

Financial Update: Jean Regan reported the results for the FY 2009; although we vastly improved over the last FY, we ended the year with a \$2.9 Million loss (18% better than we did last year).

What happened will appear in our external audit report...in Las Vegas our billing area was not following policies and procedures as they should have been, therefore a significant amount of charges were not being followed up on in a timely manner. The amount of self-pays from UMC during the last FY amounted to \$9 Million; if we even touched on 10% it would mean another \$1 Million to the Practice Plan.

Regarding State budget, Ms. Regan said rumors are going around there is potentially another budget reduction in the works; however, her inquiries have found there is no definite ruling on that.

Faculty Furlough Update: Feride McAlpine reported that we asked for an exemption from furlough for clinical faculty and it's up to the Board of Regents to make a decision; staff's furlough will remain the same. The same exemption has been requested for researchers.

Faculty Council Representation: Dennis Uken from Speech Pathology and Audiology, Gina Sella from Admissions & Student Affairs, Roger Ritzlin from Pathology and Nathan Mason from Psychiatry, Reno.

Executive Faculty:

- Dr. Kimmel is requesting the need for chairs to support the clerkship coordinators (25-30% of their salary should be paid for this work)
- GME institutional review will take place next year and will be very similar to LCME
- The Health Sciences Education building has been funded and major donor to be announced. Foundation dinner is September 24th and will honor the SOM 40th Anniversary
- The Dean reported that Dr. Barsky, Pathology, has arrived and officially starts as chair on Sep. 1st. Education space in LV is progressing, skills lab is ready for use. Deans from UNR have committed to utilizing Digital Measures for faculty.
- Dr. Piasecki reported that Faculty Development will host two meetings via pictel to discuss Digital Measures (Sept. 8 and 21) and a New Faculty Orientation will be held on Sept. 29.

Dean's Review (Faculty / Staff): Dr. Piasecki informed Council that Faculty Affairs & Development had been asked by the Dean to conduct his evaluation with staff and faculty input. The evaluation needs to be submitted by March, as such, a survey is scheduled to go out and back in January.

Emerging Faculty Issues:

By-law Committee Volunteers: It was reported the committee is fairly well set; waiting to confirm three.

Faculty Development: There is a New Faculty Orientation on September 29th.

Women in Medicine: Their next 'brown bag' mtg. will be October 5th, 12n-1pm and a special presentation in Reno (Dec. 7) and Las Vegas (Dec. 8) with special speaker, Elizabeth Travis, from M.D. Anderson to talk on "Achieving Work-Life Balance".

Interdisciplinary Grand Rounds Using Pictel: For now Interdisciplinary Grand Rounds will remain where it is.

Old Business: None

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New Business: It was determined that if there's something relevant to the med school, we will ask our Senate Representatives to please let Faculty Council know about this immediately. Dr. Lazerson suggested that Dr. Larson send each of them an email requesting this procedure be put into place. Council agreed.

In other new business, Jean Regan brought up the subject of protected time for participation on UNSOM committees. The issue before Faculty Council is do they think it should be part of faculty's routine academic position.

Recruitment of Dean's Position - Provost Johnson and President Glick

A decision has been made that we will go back to the model initially created, when we brought the Health Sciences area in, and we will be recruiting for a VP/Dean of Health Sciences

Dr. Glick thinks there are good opportunities and the new dean will come in with the knowledge there are two new buildings opening under his/her watch, and that we're committed to new facilities in LV and the Dean will be looked at to help us get funding for other building.

Glick said we need to build clinical research space in Las Vegas, and are excited we have the space to increase our med students to 100 and double the number of nurses. In Reno he feels it is critical to integrate the education of nurses and M.D.s together in order to fulfill our mission and meet the needs of the state and nation.

They are planning to have a head hunter on campus in Reno and in Las Vegas in the next few weeks (two days each) to meet with faculty and staff and hear their views. They are also planning to have some open forums for the medical and health science community in both cities to talk about their issues, hopes/aspirations and concerns with the medical school.

Dr. Glick said Provost Johnson will be sending out a memo in the next few days describing the search process and the search committee make-up and asking faculty for nominations for members of the search committee; there will not be a separate dean for the Health Sciences.

Dr. Lazerson asked about elevating the number of students as right now there isn't adequate space to handle that number of students, and he asked why we are still putting this on the table instead of developing collaborative kinds of arrangements.

Dr. Glick said they will not increase class size unless we have the resources to do so; however, they do believe a) we need to produce more physicians and b) equally important, is to build the critical mass to compete at the next level with other medical schools. He added that the building in the north will be ready in two years; however, we won't be ready to expand the medical school class in two years, however, if we don't start making plans for that now, we'll never expand.

Provost Johnson will be spending a lot more time in Las Vegas and has begun a dialogue with Kathy Silver about what kind of relations we need to have if UMC is considered to be our primary partner there. In reality, there is no one besides UMC that is interested in or is capable of absorbing as much clinical care as we need to give; we need UMC to become more of an academic medical center.

From Dr. Glick's viewpoint, our greatest asset in Las Vegas should be the medical school, but politically it's been more a liability. That means we (UNSOM) need to try to find a way to be less focused on geography and more focused on what we are going to achieve. This is one of the important reasons for restructuring this position.

There have been concerns expressed from Nursing and Public Health re their willingness to report to a VP that was also Dean of a SOM. Dr. Glick stated that Nursing and Public Health are very concerned and said if they were asked to vote, they would vote not to do this.

We know you cannot develop the solid Health Science programs we need without a strong medical school at its core. This requires that the dean embrace these other fields. There is a special problem with Public Health and that lies with their accreditors telling us we cannot have an accredited school if you report to a Dean of Medicine. If they [Public Health] get to the point where they have enough school and curriculum to get accredited, we will look at it then, but that's a ways off.

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They are definitely looking for an M.D. for this new position and it would even be better if they had a PhD, but it's not required. This person will, however, have to embrace the broader mission. They don't think it will be an easy search, but Dr. Glick thinks what will sell the job is if faculty believes it can be accomplished

When asked how faculty could give input into this process, Provost Johnson said that both he and President Glick, glick@unr.edu, or marc@unr.edu, will accept email input at anytime (this will be kept confidential if you so request) or if you choose to funnel information through your chairs that too is acceptable. Also, there is a search firm (consisting of three people) that will be on campus next week talking to people about their aspirations for the college. The firm will identify a profile on describing the job and will sit in on the conversations held with Public Health and Nursing so they can hear what's going on.

It was brought up that the timeline on this is ten months and the question was asked of Glick and Johnson how optimistic they are with this goal. Glick said he believes it's achievable; however, people will have to change their schedules to be available and be a little bit flexible. Having a search firm really helps with searches and pre-interviews. In fact, the firm they're using brought us Marc Johnson and also Susan Desmond Hellmann to the Chancellor's office at the USF campus. Glick went on to say that "a failed search is not when you fail to hire someone; a failed search is when you hire the wrong person". They feel strongly this can be done by July, but will not hire someone just because they ran out of time -- if they have to wait until the next January, they will.

The self-study that was conducted for LCME that looked at strengths and weaknesses within the UNSOM will be made available to both Glick and Johnson so they can pass it on to the search firm. It's important that we share openly the opportunities and challenges as we don't want to bring in a dean that is misled as they won't stay.