

Minutes for the Medical Faculty Executive Committee (MFEC)
Meeting
November 9, 2009
8:00-9:30am.
Corporation Room, University Hall

Present: Suzanne de la Monte, Chair, Linda LaGasse, Craig Ebersson, Francois Luks, Richard Haas, James Gilchrist, Michael Stein, Paul DiSilvestro, Glenn Tung, Angela Anderson, Iris Tong, Leslie Robinson-Bostom.

The meeting began at 8:05am, Chair Suzanne de la Monte presiding. Welcome to all and an invitation to join in breakfast. The October 19, 2009 Minutes were approved.

No report from BUCC. Iris Tong and Jennifer Clarke volunteered to attend BUCC and report to the members.

No report from the FEC. Linda LaGasse and Paul DiSilvestro volunteered to attend the FEC and report to members.

The Chair reviewed goals for AY. 09-10 and discussed progress. Of highest priority to members is to resolve biostats software availability problems. Considerable discussion ensued marking each member's experience with software issues in research. Next on the agenda was to improve or simplify the IRB submission/approval process. There was general agreement that the process needs streamlining. A proposal was floated to establish for sharing and collaboration with Brown faculty CV's, research interests, equipment, and expertise in a database with search capabilities such as Google.

Teaching remuneration can take several forms and the MFEC discussed several options, such as discounted or free access to Brown courses, especially in Public Health and other specialties. Continuing education was also brought up as a useful option to faculty.

Of particular interest to the membership is tenure and scholarly leave. Tenure is often mentioned in recruiting new faculty despite its present status as a mostly honorific term. Associated with tenure is the concept of brief scholarly leaves.

The Chair also introduced hospital –campus shared symposia thematic to enhance cross talk. Some goals from the past are now in place. Electronic submission of applications for IRB/ACUP forms is now in place. Next in queue is to establish a mechanism for interactive and translational research with integration and sharing of faculty, facilities, and databases possibly with other institutions such as URI.

In regards to software issues and SAS a simplified instruction for VPN access to Brown software will be distributed to all Brown faculty in clinical departments this month. Details of SAS licenses purchased by Lifespan will be distributed to the membership via email. Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island and Memorial Hospitals need IT contact personnel to assess needs or interest.

Discussion of Biostatistics Education followed. Topics included contracts with distance learning institutes for reduced price brush-up or primer education in biostatistics and clinical research

design. Also introduced is partnering with Brown's Psychology or Cognitive Linguistics departments to offer workshops.

Further discussion involved scholarly leave. Representatives from Lifespan will attend the December meeting of the MFEC to discuss potential plans as refined by the MFEC. Lifespan has expressed some interest in the concept. At this early stage of discussion door to door conversation with Chairs and Brown are necessary input. Also of use will be information on other institutions that utilize these policies.

Proposed guidelines for brief scholarly leave by clinical faculty include being a Brown faculty member with Associate Professor rank or higher engaged in research or related scholarly activities. The brief leave of 1 to 3 months is for collaboration, complete lengthy writing projects or learn new techniques. It's expected that at least 6 years of full time service precede leave and that candidates eligibility be merit and seniority based.

Much general discussion followed among the membership. Highlights include clinical coverage issues such as thin staffing and fear of revenue loss. Costs such as pooled contributions versus individual savings may be possible without sacrifice for fully funded faculty. Flexibility is important and policies are likely to vary depending on departmental needs.

The MFEC meeting closed at 9:20am

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Moorehead
Secretary to the MFEC
Office of Faculty Governance