

June 4, 2012

Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate
C/O Mike Dowd
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2801 W. Bancroft Street
The University of Toledo
Mail Stop 922

Dear Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate,

We are requesting the Faculty Senate Executive Committee address the formal proposal that was previously submitted by John Barrett to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting at the initiation of the 2011-2012 academic year. That proposal was to act on suggestions and ideas for redesigning the UT Faculty Senate comprised by a memo dated May 26, 2011 Meeting Notes.

The proposal included a restructuring of the faculty senate organizational structure to accommodate concerns of the Health Science Campus (HSC) faculty senate constituency. Specifically, we support a proposal whereby the HSC college faculty representatives decrease the frequency of their faculty senate meeting attendance to no more than once every four weeks. This proposed change is motivated by the observation that HSC college faculty members (College of Medicine [COM] and the College of Nursing [CON] and potentially other faculty members that fall under this framework) are not engaged in undergraduate education. Consequently, we conclude that it is not a constructive use of time for HSC faculty representatives to participate in faculty senate meetings that are focused on undergraduate curricular issues. We propose that while HSC faculty senate member required attendance be not more than once every four weeks, they will be permitted to attend more frequently if they so desire.

Further, we propose that on a four weekly schedule, the faculty senate meeting agenda include topics restricted to those areas of general concern to the entire University, including faculty from the HSC. This will stimulate livelier and more effective faculty senate discussion and action and more efficient use of HSC faculty time.

Other suggestions in the Barrett proposal that the UT COM Council support include:

- That the UT Faculty Senate continue to function as a representative body of all faculty members on both campuses, and must alternate presidency of the Senate every other year (Main Campus and HSC).
- That the Executive Committee of the Senate reach out to each college and ask what is working and what is not working and what would each college like to achieve through the Senate meetings.
- That a Senate College Cabinet be establish where college-centric governance representatives meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee prior to quarterly general meetings to set the agenda, making sure the topics to be discussed are coming from faculty and of importance to the entire faculty body.
- That the composition of the Senate Executive Committee be re-evaluated.
- That a task force be appointed and charged with continued exploration and implementation of items proposed here prior to reconvening the Faculty Senate in the fall.

The proposals described above have been approved and endorsed by the Faculty Committee on Rules and Regulations and The College of Medicine Council Executive Committee. We appreciate your earliest attention to this matter to address these issues.

Respectfully,

COM Council Executive Committee:

Sheryl Milz, Ph.D., President

Reginald Baugh, M.D., Vice President

James Willey, M.D., Past President

Marlene Porter, M. Ln., Secretary/Treasurer

David Weldy, M.D., Ph.D., Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Wafaa Hanna, M.B.A. (Exofficio)

Faculty Committee on Rules and Regulations

Thomas Sodeman, M.D., Chair

Cc: Karen Hoblet, Ph.Dc., M.S.N., R.N., C.N.L.

Wafaa Hanna, M.B.A.

May 26, 2011 Meeting Notes

Members attending: Kris Brickman, John Barrett, Wafaa Hanna, Karen Hoblet, Susan Pocotte, and Roland Skeel.

Issues and concerns were discussed concerning inequities, disrespect, not involving everyone, the nature of the topics discussed, and not communicating promptly with other Senate members. Suggestions and ideas about redesigning the Senate to make it more functional and address the needs of all colleges were discussed.

To eliminate waste and regain the viability of the Senate, the following suggestions are being proposed:

1. The Senate to continue as a functional representative body of all faculty members on both campuses, and must alternate presidency of the Senate every other year (Main Campus and Health Science Campus).
2. The Executive Committee of the Senate to reach out to each college and ask what's working and what's not working, and what would each college like to achieve through the Senate meetings.
3. The Senate to remain intact with undergraduate issues to be handled separate from general issues of concern to the entire faculty body, allowing the Senate to be a vehicle to equally hear and represent all faculty members.
4. Senate meetings to be held every other week to address Undergraduate issues, and every other month during the academic year for general topics/concerns of the entire faculty body (Graduate and Undergraduate).
5. To establish a Senate College Cabinet where college centric governance representatives meet with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee prior to the quarterly general meetings to set the agenda, making sure the topics to be discussed are coming from faculty and of importance to the entire faculty body.
6. Revisit the composition of the Senate Executive Committee.
Put together a task force charged with continued exploration and implementation of items 1-6 of this list prior to reconvening the Faculty Senate in the fall.