

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2020

Online Meeting - 5:00 pm

Present via call-in (in alphabetic order): Cipi, A; Derkay, Craig; Johnson, Clarence; Hosseini, Alireza; Ikonne, Uzona (A); Lattanzio, Frank; Morris, Shannon ; Musto, Alberto.

1. The Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:00 by Dr. Derkay.
2. The minutes of the April meeting were approved.
3. Grievance Committee activities were presented by Shannon Morris. A grievant emailed in March asking for a copy of their final report but that was not sent out afterwards. A request for an open grievance hearing was postponed until later in the year when an open forum would be more feasible.
4. Dr. Derkay gave an update on his monthly discussion with Dr. Homan. The EVMS graduation ceremony, scheduled for May 16, was held on that date but as a virtual event. 2020 graduates were offered the option to walk with the Class of 2021 next year. As stated in March's minutes, the Dean's main concern was the school's finances that were declining during the COVID-19 pandemic and would have to be bolstered through reserves that Dr. Homan had accrued over the past several years. EVMS has been the lowest state funded school in Virginia and had its \$625,000 support rescinded due to re-budgeting during the pandemic. Virginia is expecting a \$1.8 billion shortfall next year, with the actual budget cuts possibly available 2-5 weeks from now. Earlier in 2020, additional support from Sentara to EVMS was under discussion but those discussions were halted. It was noted that the federal stimulus money will be available to Sentara, with the hope that some support may be given to EVMS. EVMS will allow salary increases for faculty promotions, but will suspend merit raises, maintain a hiring freeze and not fill vacant positions. Reductions in elective surgeries and non-COVID emergency room visits reduced clinical income yielding losses in March and April, but EVMS did get a PPP loan in the second wave of Federal loans for larger institutions, but these loans were subject to a Treasury Department audit for

sums over \$1,000,000. EVMS received \$7.3 million with the stipulation of not furloughing or firing current employees. The Medical Group also received a \$700,000 forgivable loan. Sentara may give EVMS some financial assistance and may also provide EVMS with PPE for students, testing, etc. There was concern that the reductions in the upcoming state budget allocations to EVMS might be very significant, given the losses incurred with COVID19 related decline in sales taxes, hotel taxes and the extension of the state income tax deadline. The state has already reduced the EVMS budget by \$4.5 million and if that reduction is further increased, additional EVMS financial resources might have to be tapped, including departmental funds and incentive accounts. On May 15, the EVMS research enterprise was successfully restarted, after securing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and the formulation and execution of plans that will protect EVMS patients, faculty and staff while performing basic or clinical funded research. Currently the Virginia non-essential work order stoppage is set to expire on June 10. Virginia's pandemic abatement plans were to be placed in concert with those of Maryland and Washington, D.C. to allow a regional response that would include Northern Virginia, a pandemic hot spot. EVMS currently has scheduled the start of clinical rotations on June 15 and Dr. Flenner and his group are securing more clinical mentors to cover the students' missed rotations, an accommodation for both the SHP and MS students. As previously noted, the 2020 graduation was a virtual event and additionally there will not be any campus wide events, such as the White Coat Ceremony or Faculty/staff Awards, until after December, 2020. Per the COVID19 plan, universal masking and social distancing will be required within the campus buildings. The LCME preparations continue and it appears that the necessity for appropriate COVID19 safety procedures and the impact of COVID19-based adjustments on the educational process will not adversely affect that review. The Medical School applicant numbers are up from last year, while SHP numbers might be lower overall, although the SHP enrollment period is still open.

5. Faculty Senate elections. Several candidates have been nominated and an email ballot for President-Elect, Secretary and Member at Large will be distributed by email to Faculty

senators after the May meeting. Completed ballots will be emailed to Faculty Senate Secretary Lattanzio, with voting to be completed prior to the June Faculty Senate meeting where the winners will be disclosed. It was requested by Dr. Derkay that notifications be sent on a weekly basis to departments that had yet to vote to make sure that all interested parties were represented. Departments are also encouraged to vote for their Faculty Senators and their alternates.

6. Hot Topics-Dr. Derkay noted that the Lunches with the Dean event was halted but it was suggested the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meet at a lunch when it was permissible to do so, based on Virginia COVID19 restrictions. Dr. Mylona's group was working on the Faculty Handbook but it had not been sent to the Faculty Senate and neither had the HR component. This item will be discussed at the June Faculty Senate meeting. To streamline the annual faculty review, Faculty Affairs had created a new form for faculty at the level of professor that were not requesting further promotions or tenure. This evaluation form had been reviewed by Drs. Derkay and Lattanzio with comments sent to Dr. Mylona. The deadline for annual review submission was extended to October 2020, but that may be changed.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Next Meeting: June 15, 2020