

## Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2021

Online Meeting - 5:00 pm

**Present via call-in (in alphabetic order):** Chakan, M.; Cipi, A.; Collins, Jay; Daniel, Dianne; Derkay, Craig; Flaherty, J.; Holt, N.; Hosseini, Alireza; Kwan, S.; Lappinen, Eric; Lattanzio, Frank; Mlynarczyk, Malgorzata; Morris, Shannon; Musto, Alberto; Pant, Mohan; Rubino, Mary; Smith, Robert; Strunc, Michael; Williams, M.

Invited guest: Dr. Cynthia Romero

1. The Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:01 by Dr. Hosseini.
2. The minutes of the February 2021 Faculty Senate meeting were unanimously approved after adding Dr. Derkay to the roll call for February.
3. Dr. Hosseini introduced Dr. Cynthia Romero, Head of Global Health. who spoke about health issues in the Tidewater area. Dr. Romero's Powerpoint presentation is attached to the Faculty Senate minutes. Dr. Romero discussed the Health Disparities in Hampton Roads, defining some of the terminology used by the CDC to describe health disparities, and health initiatives to combat these disparities. The concepts of preventable differences in health outcomes caused by social disadvantages included concepts of access, insurance, lack of services, differences in attitudes and other factors. In examining these factors, it was noted that approximately 40% were socio-economic, 30% related to health behaviors, 20% to clinical care and 10% to the physical environment. Education and income levels played an important part in assuring better outcomes. Dr. Derkay mentioned vaccine hesitancy in a discussion with Dr. Romero, who re-emphasized the importance of health behavior and generational attitudes about medicine. EVMS is attempting to improve the health behavior of the community and improving access to the vaccine and its safety. EVMS will continue to advocate for science, education, create and support community events and expand and diversify its connections to all patients. Counseling and education will have a great impact on our community, as well as clinical interventions and evidence based technologies, such as colonoscopies and mammograms. Dr. Williams also discussed

prostate screening and how to introduce and then employ these approaches in family medical exams. Changes in context, such as the impact of no smoking in restaurants and how that changed public perception of tobacco in general was used as an example of how to change neighborhood conditions. Prostate cancer, breast cancer and infant mortality rates were higher in Tidewater than in the rest of Virginia and higher in Blacks than Whites within those areas, a clear demonstration of health disparities. Norfolk and Portsmouth rank first and second in terms of the highest Black infant mortality rates in Virginia, with 75% more premature births present in these areas. The impact of health and wellness shortfalls also includes (1) a reduction in the treatment of psychiatric disorders, but a greater percentage of such patients (2) a much greater impact of COVID19 morbidity and mortality in the aforementioned areas. EVMS can raise awareness of these problems and work with teams in the community to resolve them. Clinicians can help change the health care system and address policy issues, among them care for veterans. Dr. Derkay discussed how to measure the effect of change on the poverty level and Dr. Romero said that change will likely be slow, with clinical care only part of the equation and the pressing need to partner with schools, employers and governments. Dr. Musto mentioned that over 200 Medical and Physician Assistant students were involved as student vaccinators at various sites in Hampton Roads. EVMS needs to facilitate a regional conversation with physicians and non-profits to address issues including mental health and infant/maternal health, with training directed to support these groups. A discussion of military cultural awareness mentioned that Virginia has the highest concentration of veterans, with 1 of 5 persons connected to active or retired military personnel. Dr. Hosseini mentioned the recent Faculty Senate approval of the several new institutes and asked if we are finding good partners on the government side. Dr. Romero said that the Virginia Department of Health, Social Services and other sources are addressing substance abuse problems in maternal patients, including care in correctional sites and after release, with partners including Sentara, Bon Secours, Riverside and others. The Faculty Senate thanked Dr. Romero for her presentation and a stimulating discussion of these many issues.

4. Dr. Hosseini spoke about his brief meeting with Dr. Homan (shortened because of another impending meeting). (1) The revised Path Forward Plan was submitted but not reviewed by the BOV for their March 16 meeting (2) the SACs and LCME site visits went very well, with LCME comments about increased spacing for students being addressed by Waitzer Hall going online. The late grade submissions for clinical rotations that occurred because of COVID19 delays were not considered a problem, given the circumstances. SACS site visit comments were even more benign and accreditation from both groups should be forthcoming. (3) the MPH budget was approved by the state, with Sentara, NSU, ODU initially involved in the plan without including EVMS, but now EVMS is being requested to participate.
5. Comments about Dr. Delneky's discussion of Library services provided an impetus to attempt to get library credentials for Community Faculty, a process that is now ongoing.
6. Dr. Derkay asked Dr. Hosseini if there were any conversations with the Sentara representatives regarding the Path Forward. There were some exchanges, but the final version of the Plan Forward still must be approved by the EVMS BOV. It was noted that the new President of ODU was sworn in and he was not involved in previous exchanges between EVMS and Sentara.
7. With no further items on the agenda, a vote for adjournment was called and the approved. The Faculty Senate adjourned at about 6:09 PM.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2021