

Minutes for the Medical Faculty Executive Committee (MFEC)

Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2009

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Corporation Room, University Hall

Present: Chair Mike Stein, Jane Eisen, Patricia Flanagan, Michelle Lally, Cynthia Robinson-Loncar, Jennifer Clarke, Craig Eberson, Francois Luks, James Gilchrist, Suzanne de la Monte, Penny Dennehy, Geoffrey Tremont, Emma Simmons, Linda LaGasse and Paul DiSilvestro

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m., Mike Stein presiding. The December 2008 and January 2008 Minutes were approved.

Dean Ed Wing of the Warren Alpert Medical School referred all to President Ruth Simmons' letter to the University of January 27, 2009. The Brown endowment has fallen from \$2.8 billion to \$2.0 billion in the past six months. The adjusted Division of Biology budget calls for a \$10 million reduction during the next period. Dr. Wing noted that this would be met through administrative reorganization (60% of decrease) and a 3-4% cut in the operations budget (40%). Dr. Wing assured the MFEC that because the Division is funded primarily through grants and tuition, and was not dependent on endowment, it was secure. Funding for medical student teaching by hospital-based faculty will continue. The medical education building will proceed, but at a slower pace. Once completed, it would allow for expansion in the medical school class size.

Due to Lifespan's fiscal difficulties, the search for a Department of Medicine chair has been delayed at least six months, and the Neurosurgery chair search will not start until 9/09. The Chairs in Neurology and Psychiatry also remain unfilled.

Dr. Wing suggested that the promotion committee will be looking more carefully at the Teacher-Scholar track, trying to raise the bar on qualifying credentials and publications required for advancement. "Scholarly activity" will be interpreted more narrowly. A suggestion was made to make certain that departmental advisers understand any changes in the interpretation of the existing guideline so that junior faculty can be apprised.

[Universitätsstadt Tübingen](#) in Germany has opened a dialog with the Dean to initiate partnerships in research and teaching.

Vice President for IT Michael Pickett, David Hemendinger of Lifespan, and Robert Fenstermacher of Care New England were guests of the MFEC to discuss ongoing software issues. Uniform access to software across the Division faculty (campus and hospital) was identified as a top concern during the MFEC faculty survey. Due to individual licensing agreements, faculty sitting at hospitals (not Brown) are not covered by "academic institution" rates. Commercial licenses are 75% higher in price than academic licenses. The MFEC made clear to the IT visitors that Brown faculty status should be the determining element in a licensing agreement, and the IT leaders agreed,

but there were legal obstacles at the vendor level. Lifespan has recently worked out a reduced rate with MatLab that could be the model for negotiations with other vendors such as SAS.

Michael Pickett will form a committee of IT leaders from Brown and the hospitals, along with MFEC members Luks, Delamonte and Lagasse to negotiate jointly with vendors moving forward, where combining sites into concurrency licenses rather than having separate license may save dollars cumulatively and allow Brown faculty access to software.

The meeting closed at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Moorehead
Secretary to the MFEC