Faculty Senate Minutes
March 8, 2016

I. Approval of minutes - Minutes from January 12, 2016, and February 8, 2016, meetings approved.

II. Dean’s Comments – Neurosurgery department is close to having a solution for DHHA for April 1, 2016. The Associate Dean for Diversity & Inclusion will start in June, and will be on-site in two weeks. The Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs position is in the final stages of the recruitment process, and there are no unfilled Department Chair positions. Terri Blevins, the Assistant Dean for Student Life, has accepted another position, and the search for her replacement will begin soon, with the option of appointing two half-time positions. If anyone has an interest in the position, please let the Dean’s Office know.

III. Discussion Items

1. Light Rail Shuttle Update – Neil Krauss provided an update on the parking situation on campus. Approximately 2-3 months ago, there was increased concern regarding the low availability of parking spaces. A reassessment of the parking lot master plan occurred, and it was determined that a new parking lot would be built in 2020. In order to alleviate the current situation, the area to the south of the Henderson Parking Lot will be turned into a parking lot, adding 192 spaces. A new location for the SmartCars will be found, which will likely be behind Research 1. These changes will be funded out of the parking budget and will be completed by the end of the year. It is unsure who will get these new spaces.

Light Rail will be completed by the end of this year, according to Kewitt. The Light Rail will begin operation on December 31, 2106. To accommodate the campus use, a Light Rail Shuttle will run from the northern station, which is the main stop. There will be three shuttle buses coming onto campus, with the first stop behind the staff garage for CHCO. The second stop will be behind CHCO, and the third stop will be on the other side of AO1. The fourth stop will be at the Health and Wellness Center. The fifth stop will be to the east of the library for the FRA area and UPI. To help improve utilization of options other than parking on campus, the University will be subsidizing the Ecopass. There was then discussion regarding the length of the ride on the Shuttle, and it was estimated to be 12 minutes to go the entire loop. It will be faster to walk from the Light Rail station, in many cases. A sidewalk will be built to walk to the Light Rail Station from the library. It is the intent that every train will be met by a shuttle bus.

2. Introduction of Sallie Hanfelder, Director, Eastern Colorado VA Healthcare System – Dr. Hanfelder provided an update of issues related to the VAMC. The Army Corp of Engineers will be taking over construction of the new VA buildings on campus, and it is anticipated that they will be finished in January 2018. There will be soft openings of the buildings to begin with, which will occur when the diagnostic buildings are opened. Two areas of the current VA complex will not be included in the new campus, the Community Living Center and the PTSD program. The Community Living Center is looking into shared services. There will be a new spinal cord injury program, with current patients being sent to California for care. The new campus will cover a 45,000 square mile area, with a large clinic in Colorado Springs. The problems that had been identified at the clinic in Colorado Springs have been corrected.
There are three main areas of the VA that will be addressed in the coming months, including the Project Eagle (the campus development project), Increased Access to Care for Vets, and Employee Engagement. The Employee Engagement project will be focused on leadership development. There was a question regarding whether the equipment from the current VA campus will be moving to this campus. Dr. Hanfelder commented that most of the large equipment will be brand new; they may be bringing smaller equipment to this campus, but not the large equipment. The packages for the equipment is already in procurement.

There was a question regarding how many additional people will be hired when the campus is opened? Dr. Hanfelder answered that they are working on that right now; however, not the entire campus will be moving here. She estimated that not more than 100 people will be coming here. Most of the increase in workload will be at the Colorado Springs clinic. The question was then asked whether there will be an increase in the number of veterans that will be provided care here in Colorado? Dr. Hanfelder answered that yes, they will see more veterans. They have seen an 8.2% growth rate each of the last three years, which is one of the largest growth rates in the country. The CHOICE program will expect to see an increase.

Dr. Hanfelder also commented on the current issue related to UPI not being paid in a timely manner. They are in the process of “de-linking” the requirement that the record must be seen before they can get paid. This should help with payment of providers. They have asked HealthNet to imbed 10 people in their facility to help with HealthNet. The question was asked regarding what will happen to the space at Clermont when they move here? Dr. Hanfelder answered that originally, the entire campus was going to move here. However, since the CLC and PTSD program will not be moving here, they are looking at keeping part of it open. And finally, the question was asked, once they are up and running on this campus, how many people will be trying to get onto campus? Dr. Hanfelder wasn’t sure, but she will provide those numbers once she knows. The parking garage will hold 2,000. She added again that not all of the current VA employees in the area will be coming here.

3. Transformational Research Funding Recipient – Dr. Sean Colgan presented the project that was awarded funding by the Transformational Research Funding Program. This project relates to GI and Liver Innate Immunity, with the goals to develop the Anschutz Medical Campus as a preeminent place to do GI and liver innate immune research in the United States, and to translate research discoveries and innovations into new personalized therapies and cures for patients with GI and liver diseases. GI and liver-related diseases are increasing in incidence and carry high morbidity and mortality, with few therapeutic options offered. No focus of innate immunity and microbiome exists currently in the United States. On this campus, there are unique pediatric to adult collaborations, as well as basic to translational collaborations. The aims of this project are to: 1) develop five biomedical sub-programs focused on innovation, discovery, and translation of new information related to GI and liver innate immunity; 2) provide pilot funding to drive GI/liver innate immunity on the AMC campus; 3) establish an enrichment program for education and dissemination of new research from AMC; and 4) retain and recruit new investigators to fill voids in innate immunity in the liver and GI tract.

4. Transformation Research Funding Recipient – Dr. Tim McKinsey presented the project that was awarded funding by the Transformational Research Funding Program. The project relates to the Center for Fibrosis Research and Translation (CFRT). Fibrosis contributes to approximately 45% of deaths in the Western World. The two FDA-approved drugs for fibrosis have poor efficacy, leaving a major unmet
need. More than 300 companies worldwide are targeting fibrosis. There is a significant strength at the AMC, but it is not unified. The CFRT is a hybrid between academic science and biotechnology. A team of investigators will be formed, consisting of both basic and clinical scientists. They will be innovative, nimble, transparent and data-driven, focusing on improving human health. This will be the first center that will be internationally recognized as focusing on fibrosis. The Center will consist of four groups: 1) Pre-Clinical Discovery Group; 2) Fibrosis Innovation Group (FIG); 3) Clinical Discovery Group; and 4) Clinical Efficacy Group. External funding opportunities that will available include industry sponsorship, multi-investigator grants and programs, and philanthropy. The Center will include a Scientific Advisory Board, a Fibrosis Fellows Program, Graduate Student Awards, a Fibrosis Seminar Series, and a CFRT Retreat. Faculty in the Center will include three traditional faculty, with excellence in fibrosis research, highly energetic, and collaborative. There will also be one FIG director with a biotech background, project management skills and an industry liaison. The five-year goals of the Center are to develop new internal collaborations, unique industry partnerships and philanthropy, an exciting and productive training environment, and develop at least one novel, nodal effector of fibrosis.

With there being no further business, there was a motion and second to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Welch
Director, Faculty Affairs