

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2011

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Senate President Ron Gill, Ph.D. Dr. Gill welcomed all Senators to the new academic year, and he encouraged Senators to notify him about important issues and priorities and to help him plan the 2011-2012 Senate agenda. Dr. Gill emphasized the importance of hearing regular updates from the Faculty Assembly and the SOM Curriculum Steering Committee. Dr. Gill also introduced Adam Goldstein, representing the *Aurora Sentinel*, and Erika Matich from UCH Media Relations.
- II. **Approval of the minutes:** The minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting were approved.
- III. **Dean's Comments:**
 - a. The search for the new chair of Emergency Medicine is nearing a conclusion. Dean Krugman is having ongoing conversations with finalist Richard Zane, MD, of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Dean Krugman noted that he will be meeting with Dr. Zane later in the week in Boston.
 - b. The search for a chair of Surgery is also progressing well. The search committee forwarded three names to Dean Krugman; one of the candidates has withdrawn, leaving two current finalists, Drs. Richard Schulick and David Fullerton.
 - c. Dean Krugman reminded Senators that the University of Colorado Hospital and Poudre Valley Health System have signed a letter of intent to explore developing a joint operating agreement. A leadership team representing the School of Medicine and Denver Health is also meeting regularly, in an effort to explore new opportunities to promote quality in education and patient care, and to better manage the affiliation between the two institutions. Similar productive discussions are ongoing with National Jewish Health. There have not been any significant changes with respect to the timetable for relocation of the VA Medical Center to the Anschutz Medical Campus. Finally, the School of Medicine and University of Colorado Hospital are continuing to plan important new initiatives in patient safety and quality of care; the Dean will provide updates to the Senate on a regular basis.
 - d. The day following the Senate meeting, Children's Hospital Colorado was expected to announce publically that Dr. Timothy Crombleholme has been appointed as the Surgeon-in Chief at Children's Hospital Colorado and as Director of the Center for Children's Surgery at the School of Medicine.

IV. **Updates**

- a. Dr. Robert Evans, chair of the Professionalism First Faculty Review Committee, provided an update of the work of the committee and the reports received to date. Dr. Evans reviewed the history and purpose of the Professionalism First program. He also reviewed the process that has been established, including: a) the use of the third-party, offsite EthicsPoint reporting system, which ensures confidentiality or complete anonymity for the student or resident filing a report; b) the handling of reports, whether referring to exemplary behavior or lapses in professionalism; c) how reports are triaged (for example, reports of exemplary or unprofessional behaviors by residents or fellows are forwarded immediately to a separate, parallel GME committee); d) efforts that are being taken to ensure that the reports are not erroneous and are not duplicates; and e) the extensive efforts made thus far to publicize the Professionalism First campaign and the new reporting mechanism. Dr. Evans and discussants emphasized that the EthicsPoint reporting site is meant to complement, not replace, existing reporting mechanisms that are available to students, which include the regular course evaluations and feedback that can be provided at any time to course and block directors. Equally important, a primary purpose of the new reporting system is to ensure that faculty members receive feedback, when lapses in professionalism occur. In the first 12 weeks of the program, the committee has received 7 reports (2 from medical students and 5 from residents). Of these, 4 reports involved SOM faculty members; 2 were reports of exemplary behavior, 2 reports were about unprofessional behavior. There were 3 reports involving residents or fellows (1 report of exemplary behavior and 2 reports of unprofessional behavior). Dr. Evans pointed out that these small numbers may accurately reflect the true incidence of this conduct, as seen by medical students; alternatively, the small numbers may reflect continued lack of awareness of the Professionalism First reporting mechanism or lack of trust and confidence in the anonymity of the reporting process.
- b. Dr. Donald Eckhoff discussed the importance of strengthening connections between the School of Medicine physician faculty and the American Medical Association (AMA). He pointed out that, in recent years, the AMA has taken action in a number of areas that affect academic medicine and medical education, including professionalism, industry conflicts-of-interest, medical student abuse, provider and safety net reimbursement, and other areas of advocacy. Despite the size and political clout of the AMA, overall only 25% of practicing physicians are current members.

- c. Dr. Lowenstein presented an update of the of the SOM's revised Conflict of Interest Policy. In May, 2011 the Senate approved a revision to the policy that prohibits faculty members from participating on speakers' bureaus. "Speakers' Bureau Activities" are defined in the new policy as *compensation by any pharmaceutical company, medical device manufacturer or manufacturer of other health- or nutrition-related products, or their subsidiaries, for speaking engagements whether on a one-time or recurring basis.* Dr. Lowenstein also reviewed the exceptions to the policy, which are carefully written to permit only speaking engagements that are educational in purpose and content, not promotional. Faculty members seeking to engage in an industry-paid speaking engagement must submit an application, along with the contract from industry, to a faculty review committee. Talks are not approved if: a) the talk focuses on specific drugs or products; b) the speaker is required to use any slides or other instructional materials provided by industry; or c) the slides or other content are subject to oversight or approval by industry. Dr. Lowenstein presented several examples of talks that could not be approved by the committee, because the language of the contract ceded control over content to the company. Working with Rob Shikiar, counsel to UPI, the committee has developed substitute, "model" language to ensure that "the speaker reserves the right to modify any slides or presentation materials provided by [company], based on the speaker's independent scientific judgment without the company's prior approval."

In the first 12 weeks, the COI review committee has received 27 applications for speaking engagement approval. Of these, 17 (63%) have been approved. Information about the COI policy, detailed instructions and the link to the application may be found on the Office of Faculty Affairs web site at www.medschool.ucdenver.edu/faculty. Click on "Rules and Policies" for all the relevant information. Questions and applications for approval of speaking engagements can be sent to som.facultytalks@ucdenver.edu. Dr. Lowenstein ended by expressing appreciation to the members of the review committee (Drs. Ches Thompson, Ron Gill, Rob Low and Jeff Wagener) and to Mr. Rob Shikiar and Ms. Cheryl Welch; all have contributed hours and hours to reviewing applications and to developing principles and policies to ensure that the intent of the COI policy is realized.