UCHSC FACULTY ASSEMBLY
University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
April 27, 2004 Meeting
Minutes

Attendees: Mike Glode (Chair), John McDowell (Past President), Denny Lezotte (Vice Chair), Laurie Shroyer (Secretary), Ed Abraham, Richard Bakemeier, George Gatseos, Kathleen Stringer, Roxie Foster, Lewis Pizer, Marie Hastings-Tolsma, John Sbarbaro, Donna Stach, Clyde Tucker, Executive Vice Chancellor Gershen, Vice Chancellor Sladek, and Chancellor Shore.

Excused Absences: Rob Berg, Robert Schooley, Madeleine Kane, Marilyn Krajicek, David Port, Mike Vasil, Elizabeth D’Antonio–Gan

Guests: Vice Chancellor Tim Romani, Director Twila Reighley, Sarah Ellis (Public Relations), and Kim Glasscock (Silver and Gold) joined the meeting as guests.

I. Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Glode welcomed all participants and thanked them for coming. He welcomed Donna Stach (SOD – President of Faculty Senate) for joining the Assembly. Dr. Lezotte was nominated to serve on the CU Faculty Council Personnel Committee.

II. Minutes Approved: The minutes from the March 2004 meeting were approved.

III. State of Colorado Faculty Governance – New Motion:

Given that the state-wide faculty governance meeting (originally scheduled for April 23rd) had been postponed to early September, Dr. Shroyer requested the motion (related to the budget and legislative initiatives) to be tabled until the upcoming Fall meetings (when it may or may not be appropriate to consider re-introducing).

IV. Campus Planning

Vice Chancellor Romani discussed the preliminary plans for the second new research building (RC II) that is scheduled for 2007. He noted that regarding the litigation challenging the COP legislation, that a positive ruling was handed down in District Court. Ideally, the pending appeal will bypass the Court of Appeals and go forward to the Supreme Court (most likely for consideration in Fall 2004). He noted that the fiscal impacts may exceed $10M including increased construction costs, as well as the increased borrowing costs because of the delay in start-up of the COP-funded buildings. Although he noted that his office was continuing with the program planning and design, no procurement of construction materials has been authorized. He expressed hope that the issue would be resolved before June 23rd (when the Supreme Court adjourns for their summer recess). The education and support facilities are on hold until the litigation is settled (9 buildings total).

At the 9th and Colorado campus, the goal of a redevelopment strategy (with a possible purchaser) was initially explored. Five scenarios had been earlier identified. Two of these scenarios were being investigated in more depth. After this preliminary evaluation and presentation to the Board of Regents (with CCHE approval), a request for qualifications [RFQ] was sent out. Eleven solid RFQ proposals were received and reviewed by both the HSC and President’s office team. Four of these proposals were requested for a development strategy and purchase proposal. In the interim, two of these four joined forces to prepare a mixed-use program. These three remaining proposals came in on January 30, 2004 with a $2 million letter of credit required. Shea Properties based in Dallas was selected in the preliminary review. The Board of Regents has authorized the negotiation with Shea for the sale of the campus property (around $15 million remaining after demolition/clean-up to be placed towards the COP payment principal)

V. Legislative Update

On behalf of Hollie Stevenson (who was at the Capitol), Chancellor Shore provided an update to the Faculty Assembly on legislative issues. He summarized several key bills including the “College Opportunity Fund” bill. He mentioned that this type of voucher-based approach allows for new types of negotiation. For institutions where enterprise status might be obtained, there are different strategies. Chancellor Shore noted that the Governor’s Office had passed the long bill budget but vetoed the 8%
tuition increase (but had allowed the cash spending authority). He suggested that Teresa Berryman and Hollie Stevenson be invited to the May meeting to provide a further update. A total HSC $3 to $5 million budget deficit may occur in the coming year due to both legislative and new mandatory cost increases, but it is premature to assess the impact.

VI. Chancellor’s Report

As an introduction, Dr. Glode noted that when President Hoffman provided her report to the Faculty Senate, she discussed the energy and commitment required to work with the State of Colorado Legislature. Chancellor Shore provided a case example (see attached file regarding SB04-240), as several late bills were entered into the system up until the last minute. Last Wednesday, there was a bill that might impact the 2,400 volunteer faculty related to removing the tort limitation for on- and off-campus activities. Given the importance of this late arising bill, the impact on volunteer or part-time faculty (e.g., nurses that worked part-time) would not be covered for malpractice insurance requirements. The impact on the Health Sciences Center and Public health facilities was projected to be very large. Thus, SB 240 was killed for this session. The Faculty Assembly thanked Chancellor Shore for his heroic efforts – to clear his calendar and to engender political support from around the State – towards stopping this late breaking initiative.

Chancellor Shore passed around an announcement, as a recognition to those faculty members that had contributed at least $100,000 for historical and recent gifts. Please see the enclosed listing (file attached). As a follow-up, he recommended that a CU Foundation representative come and provide a technical report to the Assembly. Chancellor Shore suggested that his office could provide an appropriate contact to provide a formal report as an update.

Chancellor Shore noted that there was positive and enthusiastic support growing for the Denver VA Medical Center’s proposed move to the Fitzsimons campus. Given that President Brimhall had made multiple travels to the D.C., he noted it was his personal hope is that it would be supported and authorized for the VA to move with about a $300 million appropriation that would be required to fully integrate the patient care, research, and educational initiative. Ideally, there might be shared facilities (e.g., ICU, surgery, and high technology facilities) in this new proposed partnership. A parallel process was being initiated for a VA research collaboration towards the goal of faculty actively sharing facilities.

Executive Vice Chancellor Gershen provided an update on the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA). Given the change in FRA leadership, a recent survey was undertaken to obtain feedback and guidance for a search for an individual to lead this process in the future. The consultant has put together a draft “visioning document” to be presented to the FRA Board tomorrow. Thus, new directions may be emerging. In general, many positive comments were received related to acceleration of the project and opportunities for raising funds with many positive implications – as the only major academic institutions with a congruent bioscience park west the Mississippi, the possibilities were very exciting! Dr. Glode noted that an FRA update will be provided at the May meeting.

VII. Consolidation Update

Chancellor Shore provided an update on the consolidation planning effort. He thanked the 120 faculty, staff, and students involved in this second phase feasibility assessment endeavor. The charge from the Regents was to determine the technical feasibility, finance administration, academics and student affairs, and research. There was heavy representation by UCD and UCHSC faculty governance members. In the summary report that has gone to the President, there are no major technical barriers to proceeding with the consolidation. After the President has reviewed and approved the report, the website will be updated. If the President and the Regents decide to take the next step (based on this report and the independent consultant reports), then all faculty governance groups will be updated appropriately. The third phase may be implementation, it may likely be an evolution – rather than a revolution.

Dr. Glode noted that an open and fair discussion of the key issues had occurred, as well as the survey respondents (50% response rate from both campuses). The majority of faculty are neutral. Where UCD tended to be more positive, and the UCHSC tended to be more concerned about the complexities and timing challenges for the implementation related to a potential consolidation (in context of the transition to Fitzsimons).
VIII. Sponsored Programs Close-Out

Vice Chancellor Sladek and Director Reighley shared a draft policy related to close-out of sponsored projects. Director Reighley provided an overview on the close-out policy with feedback requested by May 21st. The policy formalizes the responsibility and process for grant close out on sponsored projects related to deficits that may occur. Principal investigators and units will be notified of deficits. The deficits will be written off against F&A recovery for the associated unit when deficits are not resolved within a defined period. Ms. Reighley indicated that there was approximately $1.5 million in deficits currently for sponsored projects that are six months or more past budget end dates. This deficit is lower than the previous high of almost $3 million for projects greater than or equal to six months old (the original $3 million list is now down to $692k).

The Grants and Contract Office provides accountability (e.g., accuracy, reliability, and timeliness of reports) where responsibility for financial management resides with the principal investigators and the associated Schools, Departments, and Divisions. Ms. Reighley was also asked about deficits on current projects. She acknowledged the deficits for on-going projects are much bigger. She did not give the dollar amount as Grants and Contracts has not yet determined how to automatically differentiate at a summary level between deficits that are a function of our systems and ones that demonstrate significant overspending. In other words, because we allow advance spending under certain conditions when there are delays in NIH awards and delays are increasing and because of other flexibilities in some awards, it takes a considerable of time to identify deficits that will not be covered with time.

The Faculty Assembly thought it was a good idea that a top priority for the next year be an enhanced automation system, which should include better controls and reporting. One of the specific concerns mentioned was the ability for people to easily use the wrong speedtype. Ms. Reighley acknowledged that CU System is implementing a change to a smart speed type that will allow verification.

IX. School Reports

School of Dentistry: Dr. Gatseos noted that 900 applicants applied for 46 slots – which represented the highest application rates reached ever. There have been several Dean’s committees related to an international student program – to increase international student tuition revenues. A new BSI program for the SOD was being proposed soon by the SOD Faculty Senate. A special fund-raising event, a “Tooth Fairy Ball”, raised over $700,000 to fund the equipment in the new Fitzsimons facility. Dr. Gateos commended Dr. McDowell, who will not be continuing in his role in Faculty Assembly and Faculty Council. The entire Faculty Assembly thanked Dr. McDowell for his many years of dedicated service and contributions. Dr. Gateos noted that this would be his last meeting, as Dr. Donna Stach would be serving as the new SOD representative.

School of Nursing: Dr. Foster noted that an accelerated baccalaureate program was being considered to meet the nursing shortage need. This was very exciting, as there was great demand for this type of program.

School of Pharmacy: Dr. Stringer noted that the SOP was proceeding forward in a stable manner towards their goals.

School of Medicine: Dr. Pizer noted that at the last Faculty Senate had discussed the ongoing Chair searches, the new curriculum was reviewed. Pending no unforeseen events with the administrative plans, the new School of Medicine curriculum may be implemented in 2005-2006 academic year.

Graduate School: No report was provided.

Library: No report was provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm. Dr. Glode thanked all members for attending.