

**Faculty Council Meeting
Minutes
March 5, 2002, 5 PM, R1-106**

Present:

Satya Kalra (President), Michael Clare-Salzler (President Elect), Richard Condit (Secretary, Molecular Genetics), Donna Duckworth (Treasurer), Timothy E. Morey (Anesthesiology), Jorg Bungert (Biochemistry), Sue McGorray (Biostatistics), Linda Hensley (CHFM), Manfred Diehl (Health Policy), Jim Hill (Medicine), Robin Gilmore (Neurology), Don W. Walker (Neuroscience), Tariq Bhatti (Ophthalmology), Dani Zander (Pathology), Harm Knot (Pharmacology), Rob Averbuch (Psychiatry), Robert Zlotecki (Radiation Oncology), Charles Bush (Radiology), Wayne D. Bottom (Physician Assistant Program), Arlene Phillip-Han (Office of Public Information), Jennifer Brindise (Office of Public Information)

1. The minutes of the February meeting were approved
2. Presentation by Dr. Craig Tisher, Interim Dean

Dr. Tisher was present at the faculty council meeting to provide an update on the status of the college and his perspective as Interim Dean, and to field questions.

While Dr. Tisher has agreed to serve as interim dean, the appointment is not yet official because the University level administration is still considering whether the offices of Dean and VPHA should be occupied by one or two people at this time. Dr. Tisher anticipates holding the interim office for approximately two years. He discussed the pros and cons of separating the Dean and VPHA offices.

Dr. Tisher discussed the relationship between the College of Medicine and Shands Hospital. He described the college and the hospital as interdependent, he emphasized the academic mission of the combined enterprise, he emphasized the importance of developing a positive relationship between the two entities, and he expressed optimism about the future of the relationship.

Dr. Tisher discussed the status of Shands Jacksonville and its impact on the College of Medicine. He described the financial difficulties being experienced by Shands Jacksonville as a "real problem", and he detailed the nature of the problem and the measures being taken to resolve it. The bottom line is that because of decreased revenues related mostly to compensation for indigent care, Shands Jacksonville is in technical default, requiring an influx of approximately \$50 million to maintain solvency. A critical step in resolving the problem will be the submission of a report by Jacksonville detailing steps to be taken to resolve the financial crisis, due April 7. In response to questioning, Dr. Tisher emphasized the importance of the Jacksonville enterprise to the college, and expressed optimism that the problems will be resolved in a fashion which maintain the Jacksonville operation.

In response to questioning, Dr. Tisher expressed optimism that the College of Medicine will not be adversely affected by the university reorganization.

3. Health Center Stores - Tom Harris

Mr. Tom Harris (Assistant Vice President for Health Affairs for Administration & Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs) attended the faculty council meeting to address concerns raised by the faculty over the reduction in services of Health Center Stores. Dr. Kalra introduced the discussion by reporting that, in response to the news of the reduction, he had received approximately 50 emails from faculty, virtually all objecting to the cutback.

Mr. Harris provided a history of the problem. Health Center Stores is operated through the budget of the office of the Vice President of Health Affairs. This office experienced an extreme budget cut this year. Part of the cutback is being addressed by eliminating four positions in health center stores, reducing services from Stores “to the extent that only alcohol and dry ice would remain as commodities to be sold, and Receiving would be the only service provided”. Mr. Harris explained that his office had canvassed several faculty before making the move, and had received largely neutral feedback. However, in response to the negative response received since the announcement of the Stores cutback, several options are being considered. These include: 1) departments finding other sources for purchase or supplies, 2) allocation of indirect costs to fund restoration of Stores, 3) permitting another unit of the Health Science Center, for example Biomedical Media Services, to stock some commodities formerly handled by Stores, 4) issuing a Request for Proposal for an outside contractor to provide Stores services, 4) contracting an external source through the University of Florida Research Foundation.

Details of the nature of the closing, and the pros and cons of each option are provided in a summary supplied by Mr. Harris and posted on the faculty council website, <http://www.med.ufl.edu/work/fc/stores.htm>

4. Research Day

Dr. Kalra reported that the plans for Research Day, Thursday, April 18, 2002, were on schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Condit
Faculty Council Secretary