

Faculty Senate Meeting March 16, 2022

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. President’s Boardroom,

14th floor, Saratoga Building

from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m . (lunch served from 11:30 a.m.)

Dental School -5	Present		School of Medicine -19	Present		School of Social Work -4	Present
Alkhubaizi, Qoot	✓		Abrams, Thomas			Cagle, John	✓
Bosio, Jose (Jo, Say)	✓		Abzug, Joshua	✓		Lewis, Ericka	✓
Brooks, John			Chapoval, Svetlana	✓		Shaw, Terry	✓
Griffin, Ina			Conroy, Vincent	✓		Unick, George	✓
Mishler, Oksana			Desikan, Sarasi	✓			
			Dubbs, Sarah			Graduate School -2	Present
School of Law- 4			Edwards, Sarah			Gordes, Karen	
Campbell, Patricia	✓		El-Maghrabi, Essam	✓		Kulo, Violet	✓
Gray, David	✓		Film, Roy				
Greenberger, Michael	✓		Hardy, Nancy	✓		Library Faculty -1	Present
			Henderson, Reney	✓		Shipper, Andrea	✓
			Hu, Arthur				
School of Nursing -5			Kallen, Michael			Part-Time -1	Present
Antol, Susan	✓		Kim, Raymond			Burgee, Suzanne	
Clark, Karen			Knight, Stephanie				
Daniels, Amy			Schocket, Lisa			School of Pharmacy -5	Present
Edwards, Lori	✓		Strauss, Erik	✓		Boyle, Cynthia	✓
Gutchell, Veronica	✓		Wilkerson, Richard			Devabhakthuni, Sandeep	
			Wong, Uni	✓		Fletcher, Steven	
GSA Rep	Present					Hynicka, Lauren	✓
Courtney Bergan			Staff Senate: Lei Zhang	✓			

12:00 p.m. to 12:05 p.m. Welcome and Approval of Minutes from February meeting

In person and virtual options were available – about 1/3 of the participants were in person and the rest virtual.

Thank you to President Jarrell for the food.

There will be messaging seeing out by Terry over the next two weeks for elections. Secretary and Vice President are 1-year terms, President is 2-year terms.

The Dean searches for the School of Medicine and School of Law are continuing and in process.

No corrections to last months minutes – motion to approve – David Gray, Susan Antol seconded. Approved.

12:05 p.m. to 12:15 p.m. Update from Drs. Jarrell/Ward

Dr. Jarrell:

Happy to see people in person, he believes that discussions are able to be more robust and forthright in person.

Dean of Medicine – if things go as planned there will be a decision in later March, early April.

Dean of Law – 3 candidates visiting campus starting 3/28 – it was a great pool and the 3 candidates are all extraordinary. Dr. Gray gave his perspective on a highly functional group that worked well together.

The COVID data looks very strong (low). The prevalence appears to be quite low. More importantly the Unified Command who was managing the UMMS is decommissioning.

A question was put forward regarding access to materials at HSHSL – Dr. Jarrell stated that we need to look at the budget, but there is a bit of a stranglehold by one of the publishers to access certain journals. This is challenging, but the campus is working on this.

Andrea Shipper stated that there is a process for journals that are needed. Inter-Library Loans are very fast.

Question about Web of Science access – Nancy Hardy – we do not have that but we have Scopus which is similar in structure with more journals.

Question is there a cost for inter-library loans – the cost is distributed to the schools – no cost for individuals.

COLA and Merit related to clinical faculty – they are working with the state on the issue, but there is nothing to report.

There are ongoing discussions with the state to recover some of the 18million dollars that were removed from the UMB budget.

There is a lot of interest in funding projects in Montgomery County to fund higher education projects in the area and UMB is engaged in the discussion.

Graduation is on May 19 at UMBC Athletic Facility – Fauci will be the guest speaker and will get an honorary degree.

Will commencement be streamed? Yes.

David Gray – brought up concerns around the process involved in developing and announcing the updated masking policy related to:

- Timing and lack of transparency on the shift in policy
- There was no opportunity for discussion and provision of feedback
- There was no debate

Individuals who are immunocompromised or are caregivers or supervisors for immunocompromised did not have a lot of time to adjust, provide feedback, or get some sort of considerations.

There is a prohibition on basic requests to ask for students to mask if the faculty or students in staff are immunocompromised.

Dr. Gray stated that he wants this to be a discussion and wanted to be sure that this was not perceived as adversarial.

Dr. Antol – individual masking is still available and there is some safety in that aspect.

Andrea Shipper – the quick turnaround did leave people concerned, she heard of concerns and has led to shifting of schedules and work environment.

Dr. Alkhubaizi – as a healthcare worker she trusts the science and her colleagues.

Dr. Unick – masking has not been an issue, the work from home issue is more important

Courtney Bergan from USGA – students have expressed that there are concerns with the students and how masking adversely impacts communication with faculty.

Dr. Campbell the masking issue is creating instances where the masking vs not masking is setting up divides in the classroom between students and between students and faculty. As an example, the classroom settings have started to move toward masked in one area and unmasked group in another.

Dr. Greenberger the issue of process is important – a policy decision of this magnitude deserved more discussion and participation.

Dr. Ward stated that he appreciated the comments and the discussion. The same decision-making process that has been used throughout the pandemic was utilized around this issue as well. It is likely that a more extended process would not have led to dissimilar outcomes related to faculty, student discomfort.

Dr. Jarrell stated that there was a process and an announcement that change was coming the week prior to the announcement. Deans and the commission were part of the discussion that led to the decision. Dr. Jarrell point out that this is no longer a public health emergency. The decision is no longer a public health issue, but a personal health and protection issue. That led to the inclusion of language that stated that it is a personal decision around wearing a mask.

Dr. Conroy: As we are progressing forward, I am wondering about the relaxation of the use of metrics. Metrics were used to decided about a change in masking policy. What are the metrics to decide if this was the right decision?

Dr. Jarrell stated that our antennae are up and we are paying close attention to the metrics and trends and have had high quality up to date input on the trends.

Dr. Jarrell asked us to remember this is not March 16, 2020 – at that time we did not have vaccines, we did not have testing and monitoring, and we did not have a structure in place. We do now. Two years out we are in a much better place that is far superior, from a knowledge and resources perspective, to what we had at the start of this. The CDC is not recommending masks for immunocompromised anymore.

Dr. Jarrell agrees that things could have gone better in the process but there was a lot of public health and medical professional information that was used.

Dr. Gray – I am 100% behind moving toward an environment where we can move away from masks. It would be helpful to have information around self-masking vs being around a group of masked people for specific immunocompromised people. In addition to personal responsibility there is an aspect of being able to have all the information for their decision (i.e. that there are immunocompromised individuals that would potentially benefit from community masking around them). Also, it would be helpful to know what sort of options there are for accommodations.

Dr. Ward: There are well established protocols in place for accommodations.

Dr. Jarrell: It was not the intent for requests to be made about masking, but rather the intent was to stay away from mandating. Regardless of power differentials requests and discussions should be ok. They will look at the policy to see about clarifying.

UMB Philantropy Collabrations- Lisa Vuolo was tabled for next meeting with apologies and thanks to Lisa Vuolo

1:00 p.m. Adjourn